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Arab-Israeli Talks

Delegation Members Comment on Lack of Talks

Jordanians 'Want To Remain'

JN0512182891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1620 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, media spokesman for the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by unidentified reporter in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr. Marwan, when bilateral talks were supposed to have resumed, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu told a press conference that they were in Washington and available for talks with any Arab delegation there, and yet, in his words, they do not have the time to prepare for talks now, but will be ready on 9 December. How do you react to this?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] Israel is in no position to dictate to the Arab states. The terms set by the cosponsors—the United States and the Soviet Union—are clear; namely that the meeting was scheduled to take place on 4 December in a designated conference room. We went there, but the Israeli delegation failed to show up. If the Israeli delegation is serious about the process, it knows where to go, and it is not up to Netanyahu to dictate to us as to when and where we should go. The answer is clear: Were they serious about the peace process, they would have come to the designated place at the set time.

[Reporter] We are in Washington now, and as an observer, I have noticed that the U.S. media have failed to give due coverage to the talks. How do you explain that?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] American media pay attention to more than one issue at a time. Whereas the Middle East issue means a great deal to us, it is not all that important to the ordinary American citizen. There were many developments yesterday, including the release of American hostages in Lebanon, the resignation of White House Chief of Staff John Sununu, and other news that overshadowed the peace conference. I expect the media will provide more extensive coverage of the conference when it gets under way after 9 December.

[Reporter] How long can the Jordanian delegation stay in Washington?

[Al-Mu'ashshir] We are here to engage Israel in serious, lengthy bilateral talks. In Madrid, we demonstrated a willingness to remain in the Spanish capital. We want to stay in Washington and to get down to the business of talking about matters of substance rather than procedure. We therefore want to remain in Washington until we finish the business we are here for.

[Reporter] Thank you.

Jordan's al-Majali on Rescheduling

JN0512150991 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tarif] Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam: You have declared your rejection of 9 December as a date for negotiations; is this to say that any date before or after 9 December will suit you?

[Al-Majali] I hate to use the word rejection. This is not about rejection. We arrived here in a mood and spirit of peace. We do not want to place obstacles in the path of peace. However, 9 December marks the anniversary of the blessed Palestinian intifadah. We cannot see ourselves doing business on that particular day, out of respect for our martyrs who fell for the cause, which constitutes the gist of the Middle East problem—indeed it is the underlying cause of regional developments, for which the Arab nation has fought many battles.

[Tarif] Is this to say you will agree to any time before or after this date?

[Al-Majali] We are waiting for the host nation to set the date in coordination with all the parties concerned and we want this date to suit all of us, rather than to be imposed by one party on the others.

[Tarif] Some observers have interpreted the ban on taking pictures in the conference hall, where the talks were to have taken place, as a pro-Israeli move by the United States. What do you think?

[Al-Majali] This is up to the host nation. We had a similar situation in Madrid, when one of the delegations turned up late for a meeting. Under the circumstances, therefore, I do not see any bias there. I do not go along with some people, who seem to think taking pictures is such a big deal, since world media have noted that the Arabs were there, while the other party that had talked peace failed to make an appearance when the time came for making peace.

[Tarif] One final question, if you please. American media coverage of the peace talks has been less than sufficient, while the release of a U.S. hostage and Netanyahu's statements have been given a higher profile. What do you think of this?

[Al-Majali] The Zionist influence on world media, particularly in the United States, is common knowledge. The obscuring of any wrongdoing by Israel or the Zionist movement is no surprise to us. It so happened that other, more unusual developments in the United States overshadowed the failure of the Israelis to report for the talks. There was nothing to cover other than the failure of the Israeli team to be there. I think people would have liked

to see the same intense level of coverage we saw in Madrid. As far as the media are concerned, Madrid is not Washington.

[Tarif] Thank you, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam.

[Al-Majali] Thank you.

'We Cannot Submit to Israel's Decision'

JN0512193191 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by 'Abdallah al-'Utum in Washington on 5 December—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Al-'Utum] Your Excellency, there is information that the Israelis will come to Washington before 10 December, and that they will discuss with the Arab delegations some procedural measures in preparation for the official talks on 10 December.

[Al-Majali] We have not been informed of this at all. This might be a rumor. We informed the U.S. officials, however, that if they come today, Thursday, we will be ready to talk. There are limits to how long we will wait. We cannot wait indefinitely until they make a decision. Also, we cannot submit to Israel's decision; that is, when it decides to come we should be on hand to welcome it. This must be clearly understood.

[Al-'Utum] What is the nature of the activities to take place between now and 10 December?

[Al-Majali] In fact, we will discuss the issues to be addressed during the talks. We concentrate on these issues and collect more information about them. We also talk with our Palestinian brothers; they are close to us. We discuss their issues, because they are the ones who will present their cause. We will stand on their side. We will neither present their cause nor intervene in it. We will support them by all available means. At the same time, we coordinate with the other Arab delegations to adopt the appropriate position at the right time.

Al-Majali on Israeli, U.S. Stands

NC0512193791 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by correspondent 'Aziz Fahmi in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fahmi] What is the wisdom behind the Palestinian delegation's and the Jordanian delegation's separate negotiations with the Israelis?

[Al-Majali] We are an independent state. We have many issues and problems with Israel and will discuss them directly with it. As for our brothers in the Palestinian delegation, it has been agreed from the start of the peace moves that the first stage would be the transfer of authority from the Israeli occupier to the Palestinian brothers. This is the first thing on the agenda. But because we are a delegation under one umbrella, a member of the Jordanian delegation will be with the Palestinian delegation and a Palestinian member will be with the Jordanian one. This is a reaffirmation of the close ties between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on major and basic issues. The Jordanian delegation, however, will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians on their issues.

[Fahmi] What is your assessment of the U.S. stand on the Middle East now?

[Al-Majali] What we have always said—namely that Israel does not want peace but is working for war and wants to live in an atmosphere of war and pressure—has recently become very clear to the U.S. Administration. It has become clear that this is the Israeli stand and that the Arabs desire peace, want peace, and are preparing for peace. I believe that this understanding has almost become very clear to the U.S. Administration. We believe that Israel does not want peace. It has spoken a lot about peace, but is not working for it. It bases most of its policies on Arab rejection. Now that this Arab stand has changed and has become more positive and clear on the issue of peace, Israel has been taken by surprise. It wants to review even its strategy in this process. It fears peace.

[Fahmi] What about the U.S. role during the negotiations?

[Al-Majali] If agreement is reached between the two parties, the two cosponsors will be briefed on what will have been done. If we differ, they will also know what we have differed on so that they could possibly find a way to bring views closer.

[Fahmi] Thank you.

[Al-Majali] You are welcome.

Syrian Sees 'No Benefit' in Multilateral Talks

NC0512200091 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Muhammad Zakariya, member of the Syrian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by correspondent Mahir Shalabi in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Shalabi] Will you remain here until you meet with the Israelis?

[Zakariya] No. We are in fact staying here until the cosponsors of the conference set another date for the bilateral negotiations. This date has not been set so far.

[Shalabi] The cosponsors of the conference have called for holding the regional talks in the Soviet Union next

month before there are any results from the bilateral talks. How do you explain this?

[Zakariya] Our declared stand on this is frank and we have repeatedly said it. We believe there is absolutely no benefit in having the multiparty negotiations on issues of regional cooperation before real and tangible progress is achieved in the bilateral negotiations. This is the declared official Syrian stand.

'Abd-al-Shafi on Netanyahu's Statements

JN0512143591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Interview with Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, by George Tarif in Washington; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Tarif] What is your comment on [Israeli Deputy Minister] Netanyahu's statements in Washington?

['Abd-al-Shafi] There is much falsehood in Netanyahu's statements. He says: We are here and the Arab delegations have not contacted us to agree on the venue and the procedures. Why does he wait for us to contact him? In this stage there will be no direct contact—especially from us, the Palestinians—because they are the occupiers and we are under occupation. We want to deal through the sponsor state, and there is no harm in this. We fully clarified our sincere desire to reach peace, and nothing more should be asked from us.

[Tarif] Thank you Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi for this interview.

Syrian Delegation Head, U.S. Official Confer

JN0512194291 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] This morning in the U.S. State Department building, Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the second stage of the Middle East peace talks, met with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim also attended the meeting.

The discussion dealt with the Middle East peace process, and the obstacles Israel is placing to thwart this movement. Discussion also dealt with the issue of the cosponsors setting a new date for beginning this second stage. During the meeting, al-'Allaf emphasized Syria's eagerness to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

From his part, Mr. Djerejian said during the meeting that he appreciates the presence of the Syrian Arab delegation and the other Arab delegations at the established venue and time for the talks. He said he views this presence as a reflection of the seriousness of the Syrian position, vis-a-vis the peace process.

Djerejian affirmed that the cosponsors of the conference, as a driving force for the peace process and for rendering it a success, will pursue their role to attain a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

Al-Majali, State Department Official Meet

JN0512140891 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The United States has lauded Jordan's response to the U.S. and Soviet calls for peace in the Middle East, and welcomed the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations in Washington.

This came in a meeting last night between Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation to the peace negotiations, and Dan Kurtzer, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern affairs.

The U.S. official stressed that the United States will soon announce its position regarding Israel's behavior, represented by the absence of an Israeli delegation at the peace negotiations, which were to begin yesterday.

The head of the Jordanian delegation briefed Kurtzer on developments related to the bilateral talks, stressing that Jordan has answered the cosponsors' invitation to the talks and that its delegation was present at the set place and time, only to find itself alone and facing empty chairs. The delegation waited in vain for the arrival of the other party for more than half an hour .

He emphasized that this is clear evidence of the sincerity of Jordan's intentions toward the realization of a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Al-Majali emphasized that the Jordanian delegation is prepared to respond to information, conveyed to it by the cosponsors of the conference, regarding the resumption of negotiations.

'Senior' Israeli: No Talks With 'Urayqat

TA0612084591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 pp A1, 7

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] Israel will not negotiate with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as long as Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat is one of its members, a senior political figure stated in Jerusalem last night. He added that this condition had been made clear to Washington, along with Israel's regret at the granting of U.S. entry visas to PLO activist Akram Haniyah. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, political elements in Jerusalem expressed the hope that the Palestinians will abstain from taking provocative steps, such as appearing separately from the Jordanians. Jerusalem sources pointed out that while Israel does not object to the joint delegation's splitting into subcommittees on various issues, it insists that the talks be launched with a joint delegation, which can be

split later. Political echelons do not rule out the possibility of Israel's leaving the opening session if the Palestinians appear without the Jordanians. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Representatives on U.S.-Libya Issue

Secretary General Stresses Peaceful Solution

NC0512145591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1359 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has emphasized that the meeting of representatives of 21 Arab countries at the Arab League today and their adoption of a specific political position on the U.S.-British threats to Libya "is not an easy matter, and the others must take this into account." In a statement after the emergency meeting today of the Arab League Council on the level of permanent representatives, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: "I am confident that the others will take this position into account." He stressed that the Arab countries want a peaceful solution to this problem and that they insist on containing this very complicated and difficult problem.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the agreement of all Arab countries to the Libyan request to convene an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council means that there is complete interest in listening to Libya's view and appreciation of the sober and rational position that Libya adopted from the onset of the crisis.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described the communique released by the Arab League Council today as a positive move aimed at containing the problem and finding a peaceful solution to it. He pointed out that according to the provisions of its charter, the Arab League has a right to intercede to resolve problems that occur in the region. He said the Arab League will make a move in the upcoming stage to solve this problem, noting that the Arab League communique released today commissions the Arab League secretary general with this task.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid described his meeting with Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, as useful and very important. He said that the meeting happened to take place while the Arab League Council was meeting to discuss the problem. He noted that the meeting with Hogg was [word indistinct] and came at an important time. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said: Hogg fully explained Britian's views and I answered the points he raised. The response proceeded from the premise of finding a solution to this problem and not in the spirit of rejection, challenge, or isolation. He pointed out that the Arab League will send to Hogg the communique it issued today on the U.S. and UK accusation that two Libyan nationals bombed the U.S. airliner over Scotland in 1988 because he met with him before the communique was released. 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the Arab League is eager to address this complicated issue in a sober and rational way to contain the problem.

Libyan Delegate Praises Arab Support

NC0512212291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. 'Ali 'Abd-al-Salam al-Turayki, Libya's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has praised the resolution adopted by the Arab League Council in its emergency meeting today regarding U.S. and British threats against Libya and their accusation that Libya is behind the downing of the U.S. aircraft over Scotland in 1988. He said that the resolution reflects the Arab states' full solidarity with Libya and their support for its efforts to contain and de-escalate the situation.

In a statement following the meeting today, al-Turayki said Libya is grateful for and appreciates this stand by the Arab states, which, without exception, responded swiftly to Libya's call to hold an urgent Arab League Council meeting to discuss this problem. He added that Libya called for a neutral commission to investigate this matter out of its eagerness to contain the crisis and (?find the truth) although it fully believes in and is convinced of the invalidity of the U.S., British, and French accusations. Al-Turayki lauded the tremendous and fruitful efforts exerted by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid since the start of the crisis to de-escalate the situation.

Al-Turayki stressed that the resolution that was unanimously adopted by the Arab League today is hard for any country to ignore, adding that there is much evidence to prove that those who had been accused by the United States of being behind the aircraft incident are innocent. He said that Libya will submit this evidence to any investigating authority. He added: We accept having judges from Britain and the United States attend the investigations as part of a neutral international commission. He noted that Libya cannot accept the party leveling the accusation to also act as policeman, prosecutor, and judge. He added: Libya's call for referring the matter to an international court and international arbitration shows that Libya is convinced that these charges are groundless. He added that the Libyan Justice Secretariat is examining evidence to submit to the parties pushing the charges, noting that there is other evidence made public by Malta. In this respect, Malta emphasized that no unaccompanied luggage boarded that plane from Malta,and Malta is a party to this issue, he added.

Al-Turayki pointed out that there is a Libyan law to handle such problems and that the Libyans charged by foreign countries will be tried in accordance with this law. He noted that a Libyan Supreme Court judge has been assigned to handle the investigations. Al-Turayki emphasized that Libya is against terrorism, that it condemned this incident, it rejects such acts against innocent people, and that it is ready to cooperate with the international community in this regard.

Al-Turayki recalled the U.S downing of an Iranian civilian aircraft with missiles as well as Israel's downing of a Libyan civilian plane, noting that the two admitted that they had carried out these crimes, but no punishment was handed down against them.

UN Arab Group Opposes Zionism Resolution Repeal

JN0612094991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0850 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] United Nations, 6 Dec (WAKH)—The Arab group at the UN General Assembly unanimously decided to oppose the U.S. attempt to repeal the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. They held their meeting last night.

Ambassador Khalil Makkawi, the Lebanese representative and also the chairman of the Arab group, said during a news conference after the meeting that the group had discussed reports that the United States plans to propose a draft resolution to the UN General Assembly repealing Resolution No. 3379 of 1975, which equates Zionism with racism.

Pursuant to Arab League Council decisions on this matter, he said, the Arab group opposes discussion of this subject and believes that the principle of repealing earlier General Assembly resolutions is an extremely serious one.

The ambassador stated that he had met with U.S. envoy Thomas Pickering before the Arab group met and had learned from him that he intended to put forward a draft resolution repealing Resolution 3379.

Makkawi said that he will inform the U.S. representative of the Arab group's decision.

AMU Follow-Up Commitee Concludes Rabat Session

LD0512192191 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] follow-up committee concluded its 19th session in Rabat this evening. These proceedings, chaired by Abdesslam Barakat, minister in charge of relations with parliament and AMU affairs, focused on reviewing the registered development and the follow-up of the implementation of decisions and the methodology of the joint Maghreb action, in addition to the issues of organization related to structuring the general secretariat and its administrative and financial resolutions. It was also characterized by important proposals on consolidating the AMU march and the achievement of its aims. All these issues will be debated during the next session.

Arab Economic Unity Council Ends Session 5 Dec

NC0612114091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—The Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC], in recommendations and resolutions issued at the conclusion of its meetings here this evening, has stressed the need to mobilize common efforts to implement the trade promotion agreement between the Arab states.

The council urged Arab countries to stand beside Libya in the face of the measures to which it is being subjected, to give it moral and material support, and to take the necessary measures to face the effects resulting from the possible imposition of any new economic or trade sanctions or any sea or air embargo against it. The council recommended the free exchange of national and foreign commodities between the Libyan Jamahiriyah and the Arab countries.

The council assigned its General Secretariat with preparing a study on Arab water resources in conjunction with the Arab League General Secretariat and to devise an Arab strategy on water to face the dangers to which Arab water resources are subjected.

The AEUC urged the member states to expedite payment of their financial obligations in order to enable the council to carry out its programs and fulfill its required mission. The council called on the Arab states to take the necessary measures to release the Iraqi funds they have frozen so that they can be used to provide food and medicine. The council appealed to all countries to end the economic boycott imposed on Iraq, particularly in connection with humanitarian issues. The council called on the Arabs countries to conduct trade deals with Iraq to alleviate its people's suffering.

The council settled the question of outstanding money owed employees of the council's former secretariat during its concluding session. It set a timetable for the member states to pay their share in the council.

The council began its meetings yesterday and discussed a number of topics concerning trade among the Arab states, prospects for setting up new projects to be under the secretariat's supervision, and the question of outstanding financial contributions by the member states.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Ministers Prepare for 9-12 Dec Dakar Summit

LD0512195191 Tehran IRNA in English 1641 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Dakar, Dec. 5, IRNA—The need for solidarity among the world's more than one billion Muslims, in view of changing global equations, was emphasized here today by the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] secretary general at the opening of the 3-day preparatory talks of foreign ministers of the 45 member states.

Hamid al-Gabid said the collapse of communism has changed international relations and in the new era Muslims must find their way. He also told delegates that Muslims should work out a mechanism to prevent attacks and disagreements and solve their problems through negotiations. Foreign ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference are meeting to finalise the agenda for the 6th OIC summit conference to be held here December 9- 12.

The session which opened by recitations from the Holy Koran was inaugurated by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah [name and title as received] representing the chairmanship of the 5th OIC summit held in Kuwait in 1987. The Kuwaiti minister in his address to the delegates lashed out at Iraq's Ba'athist government for not abiding by the United Nations resolutions and international regulations. He appealed to Islamic countries to support Kuwait in recovering its properties from Iraq and also securing release of Kuwaiti nationals still held in Iraq. He also touched on the issue of Palestine and urged Islamic states to liberate the occupied territories. Al-Sabah stressed the right of the Palestinians for self-determination. He also emphasized the need for recognition of the rights of Muslim minorities in non- Muslim countries and protection of their Islamic identity.

The next speaker of the session was foreign minister of the host country, Senegal, Djibo Ka who called for trade and cultural cooperation among the OIC members.

Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Thursday morning at the head of a high-ranking delegation to attend the three-day meeting which is to be followed by the summit conference. President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is due to arrive in Dakar for the summit will be the first Iranian president participating in the OIC conference after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Jeddah-based OIC has also invited eight Soviet Muslim republics to attend the summit, the first-ever official participation of Muslims from the Soviet Union.

Items on the agenda of the Dakar summit include the Arab-Israeli conflict, consequences of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the non-implementation of international resolutions by Iraq, issue of Afghanistan, Cyprus, the Jammu and Kashmir problem and promotion of rights of Muslim communities and minorities around the world.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Speaks at Opening

NC0512192291 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asked the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] to continue pressuring the Iraqi regime to release the remaining Kuwaiti POW's and detainees in Iraqi detention camps. In a speech he delivered at the opening of the preliminary Islamic foreign ministers meeting in Dakar today, the official noted the Iraqi regime's delay and failure to implement the UN resolutions on Kuwait. The Iraqi regime, he added, continues to procrastinate and prevaricate about demarcating the Kuwait-Iraq border and returning Kuwaiti possessions plundered during the oppressive occupation.

Shaykh al-Sabah praised the ICO's role in support of the Kuwaiti [words indistinct], denouncing lies and upholding rights. He said that this position was manifest in several resolutions, the latest of which was adopted by the 20th Islamic foreign ministers conference which denounced and condemned the oppressive Iraqi invasion. He called on the Iraqi regime to comply with international legitimacy's resolutions.

Shaykh al-Sabah expressed his optimism and satisfaction with the start of the Middle East peace talks which will return the rights to their owners in accordance with international legitimacy's resolutions [words indistinct].

He called on Israel to withdraw from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to grant the Palestinian people their right to determine their future and establish their independent state. He praised the African countries for their role in backing struggle and liberation, particularly the South Africa problem.

Referring to the Afghan problem, he expressed his hope that the outcome of the latest Moscow meetings will fulfill the Afghan people's aspirations for peace and stability.

Saudi Minister on Nonaggression Pact

LD0512213591 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, stated that the ministerial meeting paving the way for the 6th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit in Dakar was one of the most important ICO meetings. In statements made in Dakar today, his royal highness said that this meeting comes at a time of changing circumstances and three years after the Kuwait summit. In that time, he added, many things became clear, foremost of which was Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. He went on to say: One of the most important lessons is that the Islamic nation must adhere, in its solidarity, to the same clear criteria, in other words it must accept giving something in return for something else, in the international arena and within the framework of the new world order.

His Royal Highness also stressed that legitimacy is the same whether it is international or Islamic. Commenting on the proposal made by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, on the drawing up of a nonaggression pact among Islamic

states, the foreign minister said: This is a good, sound, and relevant proposal because our shari'a prevents fighting among Muslims.

ICO Envoy to Afghanistan Appointed

LD0512171491 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1550 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 5 Dec (SPA)—The secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, has appointed Ambassador Ibrahim Salih Bakr, the ICO assistant secretary general for political and legal affairs and the affairs of minorities, as his personal representative to Afghanistan. He was entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating the ICO's efforts through consultations with the provisional government of Afghanistan, the governments of the states directly concerned with the Afghan issue, and the United Nations. This came in a press communique issued yesterday by Dr. Hamid al-Gabid, the ICO secretary general. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

U.S. Shelving of 'Ashrawi Press Briefings Scored

JN0612093491 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 91 pp 1, 16

[By Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis]

[Text] Responsible Palestinian sources have strongly complained about what they term the U.S. failure to rise to the level of a country sponsoring a peace process and, at the same time, hosting its parties. This came in reference to the cancellation of a number of press conferences that Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi was scheduled to hold in Washington. Furthermore, the American authorities blacked out information on the activities of all the Arab delegations when the Israelis failed to attend the talks that were to start Wednesday at the State Department.

The sources describe this conduct by the U.S. Administration as gratuitous help to the government of Yitzhaq Shamir as a way to ensure that its intransigence and rejection of the peace process would not be exposed to world public opinion in general and to the American people in particular.

Meanwhile, AL-RA'Y has learned that over the past 24 hours the U.S. Administration has tried to convince the Arabs participating in the peace process, including the PLO, to agree to direct contact with Israel through their delegations in Washington to set a date for bilateral talks other than 4 December—a date rejected adamantly by Israel.

Palestinian sources explain these U.S. moves as attempts to please Israel so that it will agree to engage in the peace talks without further tension in the relations between Washington and Tel Aviv. However, these U.S. attempts were rejected by the Arabs because they favor Israel.

With regard to entry visas to some members of the Palestinian advisory council, who are still waiting, the Palestinian sources said that hope for a positive American position remains. The sources denied, however, that the problem is a technical one, saying that it is a result of a political position that has become more evident with time.

Commenting on a possible new date for the talks, the sources said that this is not clear yet. However, the sources linked the somewhat calm U.S. reaction to Israel's absence and the postponement of the third stage of the talks—the multilateral talks—in Moscow to 28 January, which satisfies at least one Arab party.

It should be mentioned that the Palestinian leadership in Tunis is closely watching developments in Washington. Contacts with the Palestinian negotiators and advisers in Washington have not ceased, and instructions are being sent to the U.S. capital continuously.

In another development, during a meeting which ended late last night in Tunis, the Fatah Revolutionary Council approved the PLO's political line and the steps it has taken with regard to the peace process.

Al-Husayni Hoping for Political Rapprochement

AU0512185391 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 5 Dec 91 p 8

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian leadership in the occupied territories, by FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU correspondent Peter Gerner in Jerusalem on 4 December: "A Confederation With Israel Is Conceivable"]

[Text] [Gerner] Why do you think the Israelis have not agreed to starting negotiations on 4 December, and why have they isolated themselves?

[Al-Husayni] As recently as a few months ago, Prime Minister Shamir admitted that he wanted to play for time if negotiations took place. In this manner, he said he wanted to ensure the continued immigration of Soviet Jews and the establishment of a greater Israel. The Arabs are to be forced to accept what he offers them—and nothing more. Therefore, he is trying to delay matters, but, basically, he is hurting Israel's very own interests.

[Gerner] Why did you not go to Washington?

[Al-Husayni] It was important to go to Madrid. But now it is important to be here. The composition of our delegation has changed anyway. Each stage has its own requirements.

[Gerner] Would the Palestinians fulfill the Israeli demands and accept another venue for negotiations instead of Washington? And what venue would that be?

[Al-Husayni] Madrid? If the Cyprus proposal of the Israelis is put on the table, we will discuss it.

[Gerner] Which point is the most important substantive issue for the Palestinians?

[Al-Husayni] Establishing the basis for a successful course of the negotiations—this means: making the Israelis stop their settlement activities and taking other confidence-building measures. At the moment the opposite is happening: New settlements are being founded; land is being confiscated; the universities are being closed down; collective penalties are being imposed on the population, such as in Ramallah today; in Hebron the inhabitants are attacked; attempts are made to levy taxes through brutal force. This must change if the basis for successful negotiations is to be established.

[Gerner] How can the Palestinians bring to reason the forces from their own camp who want to stop the peace process by force? Only a few days a go a fatal attack on an Israeli settler was carried out, probably for this purpose.

[Al-Husayni] This has nothing to do with the "intifadah" (the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories). It was an individual act, an isolated incident. One Israeli was killed, but since then the Israelis have killed another 12 Palestinians.

[Gerner] Still, is there not a threat that the "intifadah" will turn from an uprising of stone-throwing youths into an armed rebellion?

[Al-Husayni] For the time being, the "intifadah" has turned from stones to olive branches. But the Israeli's response was only shooting. Thus, if the "intifadah" did move in another direction, no one could say that the Palestinians were responsible for that. Unfortunately, it is true that those who do not believe in peaceful solutions will take over control if Israel continues with its methods.

[Gerner] On 9 December the "intifadah" will enter its fifth year. Under what preconditions would the Palestinians be willing to end their rebellion or at least to reduce it?

[Al-Husayni] It is wrong to interpret the "intifadah" only as a movement of stone-throwing youths, it is much more. It is a movement of the entire Palestinian people, with the goal of achieving their political rights. Most recently, the "intifadah" has been expressed by rallies of people who held olive branches out to Israel. Why should one stop such an "intifadah"? The character of the "intifadah" will always correspond to the respective political situation. And if the next phase is to be a peaceful phase, the "intifadah" will turn into an "intifadah" of new relations with the Israeli people.

[Gerner] You come from one of the most prominent families in Jerusalem. Do you really think that the city should be or could be divided again?

[Al-Husayni] I think that the only solution would be to make Jerusalem, as an open city, the dual Israeli-Palestinian capital city. Everyone must be granted freedom of movement. It is conceivable that in certain fields we would only cooperate with the Israelis, while in others we would have complete unification—an open city, with East Jerusalem as the Palestinian capital city and West Jerusalem as the Israeli capital city.

[Gerner] Do you think that the Israelis will agree to that?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, if they do not want the city to be divided again, because if both sides have equal rights, any place in the east and the west parts would be open to everybody.

[Gerner] How do you explain to the refugees of 1948, that is, the refugees from the so-called central Israeli lands, that even if peace is achieved, they can never go back home again or cannot expect any just compensation for their losses?

[Al-Husayni] On the basis of UN Resolution 194 these Palestinians have the right to return to their homes or to a corresponding compensation. And then, of course, there are a number of interim solutions. Thus, a landowner might lease his land, for instance, or make it available for a joint venture. Or vice versa: an Israeli who has property in our state could do the same.

[Gerner] Do you think that the United States can exert lasting pressure on Israel and that it will be successful?

[Al-Husayni] It has already done that. I recall the refusal to provide guarantees for loans. Israel needs the help of the Americans. But Israel cannot expect the help of the Americans in the long run and refuse their advice.

[Gerner] What about a solution to the conflict now, and how long, do you think, the peace process will take?

[Al-Husayni] We have one year to negotiate the interim solution. And during the five years of this interim solution (Palestinian self-government—the editors) the final settlement will be negotiated. I think that this schedule must be and can be observed.

[Gerner] With you, Hanan 'Ashrawi, Dr. 'Abd al-Shafi, and others the Palestinians in the occupied territories seem to have an efficient leadership team. Does this not create problems with the PLO?

[Al-Husayni] We are a people, we have a structure. There are no differences or opposing elements. It is one body, with a head, hands, and feet.

[Gerner] If it exists at all, an independent Palestinian state will exist only for a short time before being integrated into a confederation with Jordan. Can you also imagine such a confederation with Israel?

[Al-Husayni] Yes, why not? For instance, a combination of three states with equal rights—confederated states, where there is no discrimination at all—is conceivable.

Of course, in this case Israel would have to change some of its laws. It would have to develop into a state of all its citizens and not only of a part of them (the Jewish segment of the population).

Al-Husayni on Preparations for Self-Rule

TA0612094891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 p 9

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, member of the advisory council to the Palestinian negotiating team, by Pinhas 'Inbari; place and date not given]

[Text] ['Inbari] After four years of intifadah, what in your view was its contribution to the way in which the Palestinians are participating in the peace talks? Did it play a major role?

[Al-Husayni] Of course the intifadah played a central role. We must remember that it was not a movement for the liberation of the lands inch by inch, but one which appealed to the public: to the Palestinians, the Israelis, the international community, and the Arab world. It was the intifadah's success that helped the Palestinians decide to enter a new stage in their political lives—as expressed in the declaration of independence of 1988—and which helped international public opinion agree to the new status of the Palestinian problem and support it. I believe that the intifadah also contributed to a change in Israeli public opinion. It is now clear to Israel that we cannot go on as before.

['Inbari] In your view, do the peace talks call for changes in the management of the intifadah?

[Al-Husayni] Up to now, our struggle has been waged under the slogans of absolute historical justice, pure justice, and full rights. Now, we are operating within a framework of international legitimacy, which means a two-state solution, even if that means not achieving absolute justice and full rights.

['Inbari] In practical terms, what does that involve, for instance, in exercising the right of return?

[Al-Husayni] In exercising the right of return, we must accept the framework of legitimate international resolutions. The Palestinians have the right of return. After agreement is reached on that principle—of return (in practice) or the right to receive financial compensation—we will be able to negotiate on ways of implementing it, and we will agree to solutions that will help advance the peace process.

['Inbari] Does the new situation in which the Palestinians appear openly in peace talks not call for more changes in the handling of the intifadah?

[Al-Husayni] The intifadah is not only demonstrations and stone-throwing, but a movement of the Palestinian people—children and adults—which assists the leadership in securing political rights. There are several paths, not only demonstrations and stone-throwing; there are also political ways. I believe that a desirable path is the way in which the inhabitants supported the Madrid talks, with demonstrations of olive branches in front of the soldiers.

['Inbari] Last week you told Palestinian journalists that the Unified National Leadership of the Intifadah [UNLI] must change from making decisions based on consensus to ones based on a majority. Can you tell us what that means?

[Al-Husayni] In all the Palestinian institutions, such as the Palestine National Council, decisions are made by a majority vote. The UNLI must also use that system. ['Inbari] The political committees, the various councils, and the executive office, which I believe released its first statement this week, have recently been in the news. Can you explain to us the purpose of all these organizations?

[Al-Husayni] We have entered a new stage, a new period. We are on the threshold of a transitional period, and we must prepare for it with new means. We are preparing for that stage, which is the stage of transferring powers to the Palestinians. We want to be ready for it and assist it. The councils and the committees are meant to help the process of political decisionmaking.

['Inbari] In other words, the establishment of the committees and the councils is part of the peace process.

[Al-Husayni] It is part of the new stage. The executive office is aimed at instructing and leading the talks, and the political committees are aimed at supporting the political move in general, including the talks.

['Inbari] According to several reports, there is no harmony between the executive office and the political committees. What is the real situation?

[Al-Husayni] There is a misunderstanding over the background to the political committees because of the way they were announced. It looked like one side tried to force its view on the others, but that is not so. The truth is that both types of committees have one way of thinking. The political committees will aid the political process, but will not control it.

['Inbari] How do you view the transitional stage?

[Al-Husayni] It is a stage in which the powers will be transferred from the Israelis to the Palestinians, in which our infrastructure will be built, and which will permit us to decide on our future.

['Inbari] How long should it last?

[Al-Husayni] Five years.

['Inbari] What will Israel's status be during those years?

[Al-Husayni] Israel is an occupier and must withdraw in order to permit the inhabitants to decide their future freely. Afterward, the agreements will come. The withdrawal can be done in stages.

['Inbari] What about the Jewish settlements?

[Al-Husayni] That is one of the issues we will have to resolve within the framework of the understanding that the Palestinians will have sovereignty over their lands. Once we start to talk, we will be able to reach an agreement.

['Inbari] There is controversy over the character of the autonomy to be granted to you during the interim stage. What is your position? Will you agree to the principles agreed upon at Camp David?

[Al-Husayni] We are not a minority aspiring to autonomy, but a nation and a full partner in the political process. We have interests in the Middle East, and that is how we will behave. Israel must accept that.

['Inbari] Is the fact that you are participating in a joint delegation with Jordan significant for deciding the future?

[Al-Husayni] Of course. The whole idea of a joint delegation in the wording of their attitude in the future, including the decision to set up a confederation in the future. [sentence as published]

['Inbari] The various ideas concerning Jerusalem include that of a united Jerusalem under Israeli rule, a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem, a proposal to internationalize the city, and a proposal to put it under Muslim rule. Is there any chance for a compromise between all those proposals?

[Al-Husayni] Our position is to set up two capitals in one open city. That is the Palestinian stand. We know that other countries want to make it into an international city. The Israelis want to rule a united city and to give part of the cake to the Palestinians. We believe, however, that the more practical approach is to set up two capitals in the city.

['Inbari] Do you know that Jordan supports making it an international city?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that it is guided by legalistic considerations.

['Inbari] Can I ask why you did not leave with the delegation for Washington?

[Al-Husayni] I might go to Washington when President Bush makes a declaration about Jerusalem. That might come during the talks.

['Inbari] Is there talk about a meeting between you and President Bush?

[Al-Husayni] That is linked to the Jerusalem issue.

['Inbari] Will you discuss Jerusalem with Bush?

[Al-Husayni] No, not now, but some other time there might be a meeting between President Bush and the Palestinians.

Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi Outlines Negotiating Issues

NC0612164091 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 6 Dec 91 p 17

[Telephone interview with Dr Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, during his presence in Amman prior to his departure for Washington to attend the second round of the peace conference's bilateral talks by Dr. Salwa Abu-Sa'dah—date not given]

[Text] [Abu-Sa'dah] During the first round of talks in Madrid, you submitted to the Israel side 25 points or demands, which were spelled out by brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR. Will the negotiations revolve around these points. What priority issues do you intend to bring forth for discussion?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We are not supposed to speak publicly about the topics that will be discussed during the negotiations. Generally speaking, however, I can say that the most important and dominant issue will be the building of settlements. From our own point of view, negotiations cannot become meaningful if the building of new settlements continues.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Has agreement been reached on the scenario of the coming talks, especially as Israel is demanding separate talks at separate times with each Arab delegation to forestall Arab coordination and to gain an advantage over the other parties?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will be present in Washington at the place and time specified in the invitation addressed to us. The negotiations will be held seperately with the Arab parties but at the same time. As regards the Israeli delegation and its demands, we do not know anything yet.

[Abu-Sa'dah] There were some Palestinian inquiries before the invitation from the U.S. side was accepted. What are these inquiries or demands and has the United States complied with these demands?

['Abd-al-Shafi] These demands essentially dealt with giving the same facilities to the members of the Palestinian delegation as the other delegations, especially regarding entry visas to the United States.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Is it true that the Palestinian delegation is composed of 40 members, 30 from inside [the occupied territories] and 10 from outside? What is the wisdom in this great number of people? Is it because the issues that will be discussed are so many?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The members of the Palestinian delegation might reach 40 people, and they will include negotiators, advisers, and administrators. I do not know the exact number but a large delegation was also present in Madrid. Regarding the wisdom in this, we have taken into consideration the diversity of the topics that will be discussed. Therefore, we will be in need of these members.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In your capacity as head of the Palestinian delegation, have you drawn up a specific strategy to conduct the dialogue in this new round of talks. In other words, are their priority issues which will be submitted for discussion. What are the prerequisites which must be fulfilled, particularly as the Israeli negotiator is not easy and resorts to maneuvering?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We will be very vigilant toward any Israeli maneuvers which we expect. We will not make a step before studying it well. We know that we are facing a difficult mission.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Who are the Egyptian personalities that will join the Palestinian side during this round of talks?

['Abd-al-Shafi] We in fact sought the assistance of two veteran and retired Egyptian diplomats.

[Abu-Sa'dah] In your opinion, what are the most difficult issues you expect to discuss with the Israeli side?

['Abd-al-Shafi] I believe that the territorial issue will be the most difficult one.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Will the negotiations depend on solving and settling these issues at the beginning or will the negotiations tackle other issues while efforts are made to reach agreement on them?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The land is a fundamental issue on which Israel is expected to adopt a hard stand. As for the method and form of dialogue about it and about other fundamental issues, we do not know how things will proceed during the bilateral talks in Washington between us and the Israelis.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you have an idea about the level of the Israeli delegation? Will David Levi attend, as was reported, and what is the number of the delegation members?

['Abd-al-Shafi] According to my knowledge, the one who will lead Israel's delegation is Elyaqim Rubinstein, and Netanyahu also is a probable candidate to lead the delegation. As for the number of the delegation members, it will be the same as the number of our delegation members.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Do you believe that the continuation of intifadah will be raised by Israel at the start of the negotiations, especially since the Israeli and U.S. sides are demanding a cease-fire in and outside [the occupied territories] and Faysal al-Husayni said in his interview with AL-MUSAWWAR before he left for Madrid that the intifadah is not within the context of the armed struggle that has been demanded to cease?

['Abd-al-Shafi] The intifadah inside [the territories] is the property of the Palestinian people and masses and was launched from the outset to get rid of the occupation. If we make progress in the talks, if negotiations are successful, and if practical measures of withdrawal begin, I imagine that the people will stop exercising their right to reject occupation.

[Abu-Sa'dah] But do you agree on the saying that the intifadah's stand should be a middle one by the PLO and the unified command announcing a suspension of certain activities of the intifadah, especially the ineffective activities or those that harm the Palestinian economy, and focus on civilian resistance?

['Abd-al-Shafi] No one has the right to control or govern the people's moves in expressing their rejection of occupation. I believe that they will determine their stands and actions through their vision of what is now taking place.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is the size of the Palestinian rejection in and outside the territories of the new peace approach, which the Palestinian resistance is adopting now?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is only natural for an opposition to exist, and it is in line with the democratic way we use in our dialogue. What I can say in this respect, however, is that the overwhelming majority in and outside the territories stands behind the peace course and supports the conference.

[Abu-Sa'dah] What is your comment on the Popular Front of the Liberation Front's [PFLP] announcement of suspending its membership in the Palestine National Council and on Hamas joining the salvation front? Will this not affect the Palestinian negotiators?

['Abd-al-Shafi] It is true that the PFLP has suspended its membership, but I hope that matters will develop positively and the Palestinian fold will remain united.

As for Hamas joining the salvation front, I have no idea about this. All I know is that the two fronts are on the opposition camp. I can say that the situation inside the territories is good and there is no concern about it. As to the effect of this on the Palestinian negotiators, I believe that the situation is not so serious as some are trying to depict. It has no effect on the delegation or on the progress of the negotiations. We will, however, take any view into consideration.

[Abu-Sa'dah] Why did Faysal al-Husayni not participate in the delegation to Washington for the second round round of bilateral talks? Was it is because of Spanish Prime Minister Gonzalez's visit to Jerusalem?

['Abd-al-Shafi] Faysal al-Husayni will remain behind in Jerusalem for a while before he joins us in Washington not only because of the Spanish prime minister's visit, but also for other reasons.

Commentary: Israeli Position 'Out of Bounds'

LD0612020491 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The Arab position to go to Washington for the sake of a solid peace is correct. This is peace which the United States and the West accused us of being hostile to over the years, while Israel appeared as though it were simultaneously its guardian, its advocate, as well as its victim. Israel continues to strike without leniency, exterminate without mercy, occupy without punishment, nibble continuously on Palestinian lands and judaize the land, holy cities, and religious places. It appears at the same time as though it defending itself and is inclined toward peace. Who made Israel like this? It is the West and the United States, because interests were merged to the extent of falsifying what was more obvious than the sun. That was in the shadow of the Cold War and in the shadow of the West and the United States's need to secure oil monopolies in a region which surges with upheavals. It was the cause of the explosion which pushed the issue to the brink of the abyss.

Now, a new international climate has appeared. Some features of the new international order are not yet apparent. Some principles are being talked about such as democracy, human rights, peoples' rights, and implementing international legitimacy wherever it may be, or whenever it is exposed to danger and violation.

How will the United States behave toward this clear Israeli position—its hostility to peace, as it strives to impede United States efforts to pave the way to a peaceful settlement based on international legitimacy and land for peace, how will Arabs, who found themselves sitting across from empty seats, behave after transcending a history of oppression, suppression and Israeli occupation, supported by the United States and the West? It is a big question that puts the United States in an impasse which correctly asks if the Gulf crisis, to which the United States Administration responded with all determination—to the extent that in the process it was on the verge of threatening international peace—was different. This matter concerns Arabs.

As for Israel and the Israeli position, it is out of bounds and devoid of responsibility. The issue is certainly different now, because the United States Administration is facing a test of its prestige as the one side capable of carrying out its international responsibilities toward the crisis and the crucial conflicts in today's world. It is the United States which must pass the test of applying international legitimacy as it enters another trial at the beginning of this round, i.e. the test of its prestige in front of the world, in front of the Arabs it gathered and who showed unprecedented and genuine concern and firm efforts for peace. The issue is not connected with a procedural point, but with an intrinsic issue—the attendance of the Israeli delegation at the negotiations. It is the principal party in this. It is the first party from the position of occupying the land and usurping the soil, not only in Palestine, but in other Arab countries.

In view of this position, the camera is moving slowly, but with concentration, to relay how the United States Administration behaves in regard to this critical situation. In the simplest and most forgiving terms, how will Arabs—who sat at the table in their formal suits facing empty seats—behave, now that the United States, which has not succeeded in taming Israeli disobedience over the issue of attendance and departure, will surely not be qualified to deputize an agreement for Israel even over formal issues.

The Arabs are required to step up coordination among themselves and to take a single position. The matter is not merely an Israeli effort to complicate the issue, but it is a deliberate and planned escape from the price of the peace which started to appear on the horizon and which threatens Israeli dream build on hostility to peace. Israel's request to isolate the United States from the negotiations and to move them from Washington is just a step on the road toward destroying the peace process in which the Arabs, and we, the Palestinians in particular, gambled on international legitimacy, justice, human rights, and peoples' rights. This is an issue which puts the Arab delegations face-to-face with the question of the usefulness of continuing negotiations on a shaky basis. This question remains open, even if a maneuvering plan appeared behind the Israeli position. This is because the question raises another question: If matters are like this at the start how will they be when work progresses? What time limit can be estimated for a conference when attendance at it takes all this controversy and complication, in addition to the moral authority of those who sponsor the conference, in particular the United States.

'Arafat Receives 'Important' Soviet Message

JN0512170391 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has received Soviet Ambassador Boris Shchiborin, who handed him an important message from the Soviet leadership regarding the multilateral peace conference which the USSR and the United States want to convene in Moscow on 28 and 29 January 1992.

Brother Abu-'Ammar asked the Soviet ambassador to convey a message to the Soviet foreign minister, in which he expressed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Soviet leadership to achieve a just and peaceful solution in the region. In the message, Abu-'Ammar thanked the Soviet Government for its efforts to facilitate the work of the Palestinian delegation.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Members Agree on 21 Dec Date for SAARC Summit

BK051211429l Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The sixth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit will now take place on Saturday, the 21st of this month, in Colombo. It will be a one-day meeting of all SAARC heads of state. The new agreed date has been conveyed to President Ranasinghe Premadasa. Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in his capacity as the current chairman of SAARC, has informed all heads of countries. The presidential secretariat said the president received the intimation last afternoon from Mr. Abdul Gayoom. The Maldivian high commissioner said that President Gayoom has completed consultations with all other heads of state or government on the date for the summit. All heads of state have agreed on the new date for the postponed sixth SAARC summit.

Algeria

Gendarmes Kill 2 Fundamentalists After Attack

LD0512200791 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The defense minister paid an inspection visit to the region of El Oued Souf [area of recent clashes between Islamic fundamentalists and the Gendarmerie]. He was accompanied by Major General Abbas Ghezaiel, commander of the National Gendarmerie, and Maj. Gen. Ahmed Djenouhat, commander of the First Military Region. The defense minister was briefed by Brigadier General Abdelhamid Djaouadi, commander of the Fourth Military Region, on the latest developments in the situation following the recent attack on the border guards post.

It should be noted in this regard that according to a military source a clash took place this morning between Gendarmerie forces, supported by special units from the Army, and a group from the gang which carried out the recent attack. According to the same source, two elements of the gang were killed during the clash; they were carrying stolen weaponry. They were Abdelhamid Bari and Mohamed Seghir Mahmoud.

More details with film footage and an interview with the defense minister will be broadcast tomorrow.

FIS Cancels Marches, Organizes Rallies Instead

LD0512174691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] National Provisional Bureau has canceled the marches planned to take place throughout the country tomorrow and has replaced them with rallies and gatherings.

As from today, civilian authorities may call on the Popular Army to protect public order without having to declare a state of emergency. Today the parliament adopted a draft resolution on this issue.

Hachani Details Plans for Rallies

LD0512231191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Today in Setif Province Mr. Abdelkader Hachani, chairman of the Islamic Salvation Front national provisional executive bureau, chaired a rally at Mohamed Kassab Stadium. On the sidelines of the rally, radio correspondent Faisal Ghames asked Mr. Hachani about the reason behind the cancelation of marches which the FIS had decided to stage tomorrow throughout the country. Hachani gave the following answer:

[Begin recording] [Hachani] In fact, the decision of the executive bureau today comes within the framework of foiling the conspiracy which is being woven against the Muslim Algerian people, under which some known circles which do not benefit from the people's choice—because the choice of the people will marginalize them—these circles are the ones that are striking some chords to create areas of tensions. I would like to emphasize that we have asked within the framework of the law to stage these marches, but many governors, after having given written permission, changed their minds obviously under pressure from the central authorities. Our fear is that this is part of a dangerous conspiracy against the Algerian people. This led the executive bureau, which is aware of its responsibility before God, history, and the Algerian people, to decide to transform these marches into rallies, and we will not stand down from these rallies whatever the situation, God willing.

[Ghames] Will these rallies take place at the places designated for the electoral campaign?

[Hachani] These rallies will take place all over the national territory and throughout all the provinces. They all have the same demands. They will be held in public places in general. [end recording].

Mr. Hachani also indicated that a rally will be held tomorrow following the Friday prayers at Martyrs Square in the capital. [passage omitted]

Assembly Ratifies Law on Use of Army

LD0512234191 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The National People's Assembly today ratified six laws, four of which concern the world of labor. Djamel Nezzar has more details:

[Nezzar] The first law ratified today by the National People's Assembly by majority of votes concerns the contribution of the National People's Army to the protection of public order when the state of emergency is not in force. The law provides for the possible mobilization of Army units in cases of catastrophes, natural disasters, or disasters which are exceptionally serious, or when the safeguarding, maintenance, and restoration of public order are beyond the scope of the authorities and the services which are usually in charge of this. The Army units can also be mobilized if the safety of people and their property is seriously endangered and if collective and individual liberties are continuously infringed upon. [passage omittedJ]

Egypt

Mubarak on Peace Talks, Arab Situation

NC0612091791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0840 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 6 Dec (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has given a comprehensive interview to the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, in which he discusses internal affairs and Arab and international developments, in addition to current affairs and the peace march

in the Middle East region to reach a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the interview he gave to Ahmad al-Jarallah, editor in chief of the newspaper, President Mubarak also discussed Egypt's role in the peace process and the repercussions of the Gulf crisis on Arab relations.

In his interview, which the newspaper will publish in its Saturday [7 December] issue, the president reviewed current developments in the international arena and the present situation in Iraq. He also discussed the U.S. accusation against Libya for the [Pan Am] plane incident and the significance of appointing Dr. Butrus Ghali to the post of UN secretary general.

Responding to a question on the Camp David agreement and the reasons leading up to it, President Mubarak said: When late President Anwar al-Sadat decided to cross the Suez Canal, his objective was to activate the situation. He did not fight with the goal of putting an end to the cause, since such a goal exceeded the limits of his military capabilities in confronting the other side.

President Mubarak reviewed the battle of crossing [the Suez Canal], which was dazzlingly successful and impressed everyone; the U.S. intervention in the battle in favor of Israel; and the first and second disengagement of forces treaties. Then there was the Geneva conference and the (?stalling) and disputing over the formation of the Arab delegation to the conference.

The president drew attention to the fact that these Arab disputes increased and Israel used them as an excuse and found them to be fertile ground for it to realize its objectives. Here, al-Sadat reached the conviction that the results of the October war would come to a dead end; the state of no-war-no-peace would prevail once again, as before the war; and the occupied territories would remain under Jewish control. This pushed him to take his courageous decision to go to the Israelis and talk to them on their home ground.

President Mubarak said al-Sadat's initiative was met with popular support and agreement. It attracted world public opinion and pushed Israel to present proposals to solve the case. But the exerted efforts reached a dead end many times, until what is called the Camp David framework was agreed upon after 21 days of negotiations.

In his interview with AL-SIYASAH, President Mubarak warned that the Camp David framework consists of two parts: The first pertains to the Egyptian-Israeli problem, and the second deals with the Palestine question and all its dimensions, including the Golan Heights and the Syrian question.

The president affirmed that the second part of the Camp David framework contained important articles which today cannot be agreed upon that easily. In this respect, he referred to the Mena House conference in December 1977, in which the Palestinian, Syrian, and Israeli flags were raised.

He expressed regret that the Arabs refused to attend that conference despite the fact that the peace process was easier then than it is today. He pointed out that the Arab side thus missed an important opportunity which he hopes it will not miss now.

In his interview with AL-SIYASAH, President Mubarak said that Egyptian efforts were met with a flood of Arab condemnations against al-Sadat and Egypt and its people.

He expressed the conviction that had it not been for Arab obstinacy, the situation would have been much better than it is today and the Palestinian issue almost would have been resolved. He indicated that the Camp David agreement provides for the election of a civilian administration from among the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza and for the withdrawal of the Israeli military forces and the civil administrations to locations to be agreed upon during the negotiations, which means the withdrawal of the occupation forces from the occupied territories.

President Mubarak affirmed in his interview that had this been achieved, the situation would have been as good as can be. He indicated in this respect that no settlements existed at that time, whereas settlements now cover approximately 70 percent of the land.

President Mubarak emphasized that Egypt's goal was not to end the state of no-war-no-peace, but to achieve a comprehensive peace and a final solution that would satisfy all the parties and restore the occupied Arab territories.

Responding to a question about Iraq's stand at that time, when it led the rejection of the Camp David agreement and the boycotting of Egypt, President Mubarak said in the interview that Iraq wanted to dominate the Arab nation and that he knew the Gulf states did not approve of severing their relations with Egypt, but that it was imposed on them.

He indicated that Egypt did not pursue the same method as Iraq during the Cairo summit which convened after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; Egypt's principal goal was to achieve an Arab solution to the problem that would save face for the Iraqis and restore Kuwait's sovereignty.

President Mubarak added: At that time, we did not think of what happened in Baghdad in 1978—the severance of relations with Egypt, through which Iraq sought to humiliate Egypt. I advised Iraqi President Saddam Husayn 32 times. All of my advice was sincere and not for local consumption. I expected logic to prevail and the crisis to end in a good way. But, despite my sincere advice and repeated warnings to him against persisting in his error, he did not heed my advice, committed the error, and received his punishment.

President Mubarak expressed regret for the Iraqi people's suffering. He said: I am not happy about the

difficulties the people are encountering, because they are Arab people. But the problem lies with rulers who ignore the facts.

President Mubarak disclosed that Saddam Husayn asked Egypt to strike Iran during the Iraqi-Iranian war, but his request was turned down because the Iranian people are Muslims and Egypt was basically against this war.

Asked if Saddam Husayn's alliance with King Husayn and the Sudanese and Yemeni presidents was the motive behind his occupation of Kuwait, President Mubarak said: I cannot answer that because the nature of my relations with them was different from his relations with them. I was not aware of their secrets. Even during the Arab Cooperation Council meetings, I felt distant from them. I used to hear some murmurs and peripheral dialogues, but I never thought that matters would reach the point of occupying Kuwait. I cannot believe that an Arab would conquer a neighboring Arab state no matter how much money he needed, particularly in the nineties when the world has witnessed such important changes. I believe that if they had assessed the situation properly, they never would have committed to such a losing game.

President Mubarak stressed: Whether Saddam Husayn stays or goes is a matter concerning the Iraqi people. Egypt does not interfere in the domestic affairs of any nation and we did not respond to the Iraqi press attacks on Egypt because of their current circumstances.

Asked about Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and whether 'Arafat's role continues to be important with regard to the Arab cause, President Mubarak said that 'Arafat's visit to Cairo aimed at coordinating stands with Egypt on the Palestinian issue. He added: 'Arafat's role remains significant and we cannot ignore it. Our role, however, is limited to assisting the Palestinians and we will not interfere in choosing persons, because we deal with the issue on a matter of principle and we have supported it from the start.

Asked about his recent visit to Damascus, President Mubarak said that this visit was made within the context of consultations with President Hafiz al-Asad about the peace talks that started in Madrid. We also discussed the bilateral and multilateral talks and the need to activate the issue through negotiations instead of returning to the deadlock and suffering from the same circumstances that prevailed when Arabs lost the chance made available by al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Asked if the owners of the cause [Palestinians] have benefited from Egypt's experience during the negotiations with Israel, President Mubarak said in his interview with AL-SIYASAH that everyone should benefit from this experience and whoever does not will reach a blind alley. He reiterated that the Egyptian experience will be available during the Arab-Israeli talks both during the bilateral talks and the multilateral talks.

On Egypt's relations with Kuwait after the important role it played in the liberation war, President Mubarak described relations between the two countries as eternal. He also added that his relations with the amir of Kuwait and the heir apparent have been good for a very long time.

He continued: Even if a misunderstanding takes place sometime, it does not mean that relations will deteriorate. The Kuwaitis are our brothers and we stand alongside them in times of need. There is nothing to mar the good relations between us.

Responding to a question on the American accusation leveled at Libya regarding the Pan Am airplane incident, President Mubarak said we are trying through our relations with the United States to find solutions to this crisis.

I have spoken to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to start activities in the right direction so that issues do not get more complicated than they actually are.

President Mubarak ruled out the possibility of U.S. military action against Libya. He clarified that President Bush's administration is one of the wisest U.S. Administrations he has encountered. He pointed out that it cannot strike a people and kill innocent civilians over an incident in which the Libyan people had absolutely no say.

On security arrangements in the Gulf, President Mubarak said they should stem from the Gulf itself and we should not impose any arrangements on our brothers in the Gulf. But if they need anything from us, we will not tarry. The evidence is that we did not hesitate to help when Kuwait was occupied, because we are committed by agreements with our Arab brothers and we have a moral obligation toward them.

Responding to a question on the Arab disputes regarding peace efforts, President Mubarak said the situation now is a little better. But this only has taken place after 15 years, during which we lost a great deal and squandered much.

The president referred to the letter former U.S. President Jimmy Carter sent to late President al-Sadat during the period of preparations for the Geneva conference, in which he pointed out that inter-Arab differences are greater than the Arab-Israeli disputes.

He said: Perhaps Carter's message of that time should be a lesson for us today: We should go all the way, especially since we have started the Madrid conference and will soon enter into bilateral talks followed by multilateral talks, which will be like an international conference attended by approximately 40 states. This is an opportunity to enter into dialogue over various subjects which should not be missed in order to reach a final solution to the Palestine question.

Responding to a question on clearing the Arab atmosphere after the liberation of Kuwait, President Mubarak said in his interview with AL-SIYASAH that this varies from one state to another. He pointed out that the issue

requires some time, especially regarding the countries which suffered from those events.

The president added: What has happened definitely affects the Arab cooperation march. I do not know what pushed some countries to take such a stand towards Kuwait, especially since those countries used to get a great deal of aid from the brothers in the Gulf.

On whether Dr. Butrus Ghali's election as UN secretary general was a result of President Mubarak's influence or international arrangements and whether it is an honor for Egypt, the president said that Egypt's stand during the recent international events was the major reason behind the support for Ghali. He said: We exerted great efforts in this regard. I spoke to the heads of states about voting for him and we succeeded in that. Apart from being of great interest to Egypt, this development also greatly interests the Arabs.

Regarding the domestic situation, President Mubarak told AL-SIYASAH he will choose a vice president when he finds someone suitable for this post whom he can present to the people.

He praised the extensive efforts Dr. 'Atif Sidqi's government is making in economic reforms. He pointed out that changing the government cannot be a goal in itself and bringing in a new government every now and then is meaningless.

President Mubarak noted that rising prices constitute a worldwide problem found even in the major industrial countries, which are suffering from excessive prices. He said: We import many commodities from these countries and this leads to higher prices in Egypt.

He also noted the effect that rising energy bills and the requirements of building new power plants have on prices. He announced: Despite this, prices in Egypt remain lower than in many other countries, including those of the Gulf.

He asserted that the goal of economic reform is to increase industrial and agricultural output, noting that this will have a beneficial effect on prices.

President Mubarak said Egypt supports and encourages investment and tries to remove any obstacles facing investors. Referring to the writing off of a large part of Egypt's debt, he said that this has benefited the state budget. He asserted that borrowing now is carried out in a very limited way.

In concluding his interview with AL-SIYASAH, President Mubarak praised the enlightened Egyptian public opinion, its understanding of the facts and its handling them with understanding. He said: Everything we do is public. We have no secrets. Egypt is pursuing a sound policy and its leadership is telling the people the truth. We are not speaking of milk and honey, but about economic development that will require money and effort—the Egyptian people's effort. When my current presidential term expires in October 1992, I will decide whether I will be able to continue serving the people.

Al-Baz, UK's Hogg Discuss Peace, Lockerbie

NC0512124491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, today received Douglas Hogg, British minister of state for foreign and Commonwealth affairs.

Hogg said after the meeting that they discussed the current problem with Libya and how to solve it, noting that the best way is for the Libyan side to hand over the accused to the United States or Britain.

Asked to comment on statements yesterday by the Libyan ambassador in Paris, Hogg said it is a preliminary step [word indistinct] the arrest of the accused but they must be handed over.

Replying to a question about Israel's failure to attend the bilateral talks on the set date, he voiced regret and said his country was hoping all parties would attend on the fixed date. He added that Britain is doing everything it can to help all parties, but first all must sit and negotiate.

On the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, he reaffirmed his country's position, which calls for stopping settlement building because it obstructs reaching a Middle East peace agreement. He pointed out that Britain has informed Israel of this stand.

Dr. al-Baz said he and the British minister reviewed the Middle East situation, peace process developments, and prospects for progress in the peace talks in light of the Israeli delegation's failure yesterday to attend the bilateral talks.

Describing the Israeli stand as absolutely negative, al-Baz said: Although we do not regard this as Israel's final stand, it is a maneuver and act of procrastination stemming from a desire to demonstrate that Israel's willpower is no less that of the United States and that it does not bow to the United States.

Al-Baz expressed his dissatisfaction with Israel's position and said Israel must continue the peace process seriously so that it will not generate a negative impression of its stand.

He noted that Israel earlier called for direct negotiations but now has changed its position after the Arabs became enthusiastic about the negotiations.

He said he and Hogg discussed the U.S.-British charges against Libya and the possible ramifications of this stand, as well as current international issues and the agenda for the EC summit Monday in Maastricht.

Deputy Says Drug Trafficking Only Part of Problem

NC0512142491 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 4 Dec 91 p 8

[Text] Cairo, AL-SAFIR—Ahmad Taha, founder of the parliamentary opposition front in the Egyptian People's Assembly, has blamed the Egyptian Government and "the Muslim Brotherhood" for capital investment companies smuggling depositors' capital abroad. He said there is a relationship between Islamic and Zionist capital.

Taha said Egyptian deputies' involvement in drug trafficking "is only part of a general problem in Egyptian society, where drug trafficking and currency business have become stronger than governments and international economic powers that infiltrated Egyptian society."

He said that canceling the memberships of "deputies accused of drug trafficking does not end the problem. Deputies alone do not represent the international drug-trafficking gangs which will continue to threaten internationally and locally."

Capital investment companies, he said, are new to Egypt "which tried to ensure a religious cover for itself." He added that the "Muslim Brotherhood" organization has established the companies' main office in the Bahamas, "which refutes its claims that it is religious, because the Bahamas is an island for drugs, smuggling, and prostitution."

Deputy Taha said that "exacerbating such activities within Egyptian society is due to their infiltrating the higher echelons and administrative leaderships to protect themselves." He pointed out that this explains state participation in the crime, which took place within its sight and with the help of its men."

Asked if this could be interpreted as blaming the Egyptian Government for losing the capital and savings of depositors in the capital investment companies, Taha said that the lack of supervision and control of these companies' activities—and that these companies bought some officials to protect them—enabled these companies to impose silence by their influence in the government. The government is not completely innocent, Taha said.

He added that "the Muslim Brotherhhod" has fought every attempt within the People's Assembly to organize the capital investment companies' work. He was convinced that these companies are linked with Zionism, disclosing that he has documents of a Saudi origin proving a relationship between Islamic and Zionist capital. He said that "this demonstrates that there is a plan to attract citizens' savings and prevent them from being used to build a national economy."

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Break Ties With 'Terrorist' Groups

NC0512134891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1324 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stated that his country will sever all its ties with the liberation movements that resort to terrorism. In an interview with AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi', he said that he is ready to allow all investigators to visit the sites in Libyan territory where it is said terrorists receive training.

Ibrahim Nafi' said that the interview lasted three hours and that AL-AHRAM will publish it in two parts, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. A summary of the interview was published today in the AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English.

Al-Qadhdhafi stated that Libya will submit an initiative to the world or to the United Nations to confront terrorism and chemical weapons. Speaking about the accusations leveled by the United States, Britain, and France at his country regarding the explosion of the airliner over Scotland in 1988, he stressed that he is "revolutionary and not terrorist." He noted that he has taken measures that will ensure the conduct of serious interrogations into the incident. He pointed out that he is prepared to open the doors to interrogators, whether judges or members of an investigation committee.

The United States and Britain earlier requested the handing over of two Libyans they said they are intelligence members and accused them of being behind the explosion of the aircraft over Scotland. Nafi' said he noted that President Mubarak enjoys great popularity in Libya for his objection to any Western military action against Libya.

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Fabrication'

NC0512223791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 5 Dec (MENA)—Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, has denied any knowledge of anything in connection with the downing of the U.S. and French planes, because the Libyan authorities neither sanctioned nor planned anything of the sort. He affirmed that Libya is not in any way connected to these incidents. He said he was surprised that this issue was brought up again now in a way that suggests that there are premeditated political intentions behind it. He added that lifting the curtains of a case after four years means that there is "fabrication" in the matter and that the issue was cooked ultimately to pin the accusation on Libya.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made these remarks in an interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM the first part of which will be published on 6 December.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that the Libyan People's Committees have assigned Judge Ahmad al-Zamawi, who is known for his fairness and honesty, to investigate the issue of the U.S. plane and to contact authorities in the United States, Britain, Malta, and France to conduct a serious and comprehensive investigation. [passage omitted]

Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his wish that the Arab League will handle the entire matter because Libya is now facing an alliance of several countries, and both Britain and the United States must provide the Libyan judge with the evidence in their possession so he can interrogate the two Libyan suspects accordingly. If it is proved that they have committed these crimes, Libyan law is strict and severe and the punishment could be life imprisonment or death, he added. As for the issue of compensation, they should be borne by those responsible for the incident, be it Libya or others, he added.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi proposed that an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly be convened to discuss compensation for the peoples and families harmed by past acts of colonialism or terrorism, noting that by this he means that countries that came under colonization must be compensated like the German Jews were compensated. He added: France must compensate Algeria; Italy must compensate Libya; and Portugal must compensate Angola. Add to this the victims of the Iranian plane shot down by the United States and the Libyan plane downed over Sinai, he added.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi dismissed the charges being disseminated that Libya is forming, financing, and training terrorist elements throughout the world. He said if this were true, Libya would have been able to change all the regimes in the world to pro-Libyan regimes. He noted that the United States claimed that Libya had sent a team to murder former U.S. President Ronald Reagan and then the U.S. amassed its fleet off the Libyan coast. It later transpired that an Iranian arms dealer lied to the U.S. and they believed him but it was mere rumors, lies, and fabrication.

Responding to reports that al-Sha'b Palace in Libya is used for terrorism, Col. al-Qadhdhafi stated that al-Sha'b Palace was a center for world liberation movements that moved to Libya, but after the collapse of communism, the episode was finished. He said that Libya calls for a peaceful transition to socialism and does not advocate the use of violence.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi stressed that Libya has no connection with the disappearance of Lebanese Shiite Imam Musa al-Sadr. He noted that the investigations proved that he left Libya for Italy, stayed in a hotel there, then disappeared. He added: He must have been a victim of inter-Lebanese differences and interactions. He noted that several Lebanese leaders were killed during the Lebanese war, so why should Libya be accused of this? He noted that the opposite is true. Libya, he said, intervened with Shiite organizations in Lebanon to seek the release of four British citizens and it made appeals on several occasions for the release of British priest [as received] Terry Waite. He added: They were going to be executed but because of our intervention, he [not further identified] stayed alive.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi emphasized that he does not belive in terrorism, because terrorism generates more terrorism, tarnishes the sacred causes, and harms innocent people. He added: I challenge anybody to accuse me personally or accuse Libya officially of terrorism, and I have the courage to face any accusation.

Concerning the issue of Libya's relationship with the Irish Republican Army [IRA], Col. al-Qadhdhafi said: This has done us harm because the IRA is carrying out operations that are, in my belief, terrorist. We thought they were acts of struggle for liberation. However, he added, we must distinguish between the IRA and the issue of Northern Ireland, which I consider a just cause that must be settled politically. He stressed that a line must be drawn between terrorism and armed struggle, adding that no sane person could support terrorism.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi turned to the issue of Ahmad Jibril [secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]. He said Jibril is not a terrorist because by the same standard, all Palestinian leaders would be incriminated. He added: However, he has not entered Libya since 1989 and there is a break between us. It is certain that he did not down the Pan Am plane, despite the Israelis' emphasis. As for Abu-Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], they are making him out to be bigger than he really is. When Abu-Nidal was in Libya, he did not carry out any acts and he was frozen.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi expressed his belief that the European countries are aware of Abu-Nidal's relationships with some Arab officials involved in some commercial firms and activities and U.S. franchises. He added: The last time I saw Abu-Nidal was in 1986.

Col. al-Qadhdhafi then spoke about the Libyan intelligence service and said he placed at its head one of the free officers who took part in the revolution. He added: He is known as a writer and an intellectual more than as a military man. He noted that the Libyan intelligence service had previous relations with East European services, and this caused it to be exploited and to deviate, something that distorted Libya's reputation.

Regarding the accusations of treason being disseminated by the Libyan media and some Libyan leaders against the attendants of the Madrid peace conference and their opposition to the ongoing efforts to recover Arab rights and reach peace through negotiations, Col. al-Qadhdhafi asked: Are we more royal than the king? He said if the Palestinians themselves want to try the road of peace why should we object?

Col. al-Qadhdhafi noted that he will propose a comprehensive initiative on terrorism, chemical weapons, and compensation for victims of terrorism everywhere.

Paper Warns of Retaliation for U.S. Strike

JN0512111391 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 5 Dec 91 p 17

[Unattributed report from the "Studies and Reports" page: "After Iraq Comes the U.S. Military Adventure Against Libya; America Insists on Striking at Libya and Destroying Its Great Man-Made River"]

[Excerpts] Diplomatic sources have stated that the U.S. President has recently endorsed a U.S. military plan to blow up the Libyan arms depots, the Great Man-Made River pipes, ports, and airports.

These sources added that the United States and Britain have agreed to begin preparations for the possible implementation of this plan in the second half of December unless important developments suddenly occur.

As part of these preparations, the United States asked Egypt, whose relations with Libya were promoted largely after President Mubarak's cancelation of the border with Libya, to quickly reconsider its stands and adopt brave decisions to restore the old status quo and quickly close its border with Libya and suspend the economic, scientific, and industrial cooperation program with it in compliance with the U.S. concept of no cooperation with a terrorist state in the region or elsewhere.

The last few days witnessed extremely serious developments on the level of the U.S.-Arab [as published] plot against Libya. In addition to demanding the closure of the Egyptian-Libyan border, reports say that the United States has prepared a list of nine Libyan officials, headed by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, with the purpose of arresting and trying them on the charge of being directly involved in what Washington called terrorist operations. [passage omitted]

Therefore, and in view of the imminent U.S. move, we would like to emphasize to the United States that today is different from yesterday and that this time the Arab people will not remain silent even if governments do. Let them know that the Arab people will not let their new crime pass, nor will they remain idle; these people will strongly reply to every strike with strikes, to be followed by other strikes in the heart of the United States and all the capitals supporting the United States.

Morocco

King Suggests Lockerbie Trial in Neutral Country

PM0612110491 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 5 Dec 91 p 3

[Mahmud Ma'ruf report: "Morocco Proposes Trial of Lockerbie Case Defendants in Tunisia"]

[Excerpt] Rabat, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI—King Hassan II of Morocco has proposed that the two Libyan defendants in the Lockerbie incident be tried in Tunisia within the framework of Libya's agreement to refer al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi to an international trial in a neutral country.

Senior Libyan diplomatic sources told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that King Hassan II has proposed to Libya that a trial be held in Tunisia. This was at his meeting in Marrakech with Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari, who informed him of Tripoli's approval of the Moroccan monarch's continuing his contacts and efforts to find a formula to close the file on Libya's indictment in the French and Pan Am airliner incidents.

The United States, France, and Britain demand that Fuhaymah and Al-Miqrahi be handed over to stand trial, which Tripoli still refuses to do.

The sources told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that there is an international belief that Libya's indictment in the two incidents is political and intended as a punishment for its stands toward U.S. schemes in the Arab region. They quoted the Moroccan monarch as saying that the possibility of convening the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution against Tripoli is not ruled out and that a there must be move to find a solution before the the Security Council is convened. The sources say that the U.S. Administration reactivated the Lockerbie file in order to topple Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who has been in power for over 22 years.

King Hassan II of Morocco—who is the current president of the Arab Maghreb Union, comprised of Libya, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, and Mauritania—is following the case at Libya's request. [passage omitted]

King Hassan Receives DFLP's Hawatimah

LD0512214691 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II, may God make him victorious, received this afternoon at the royal palace in Marrakech Mr. Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], who was accompanied by Abu-Firas, member of the DFLP Central Committee. The meeting was attended by his majesty's adviser Mr. Ahmed Bensouda.

Sudan

SPLA Factions Express 'Regrets' Over Clashes

AB0512223091 Paris AFP in English 1930 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Nairobi, Dec 5 (AFP)—Two Sudanese rebel factions have expressed "deep regrets" over reports of violations of a ceasefire agreement they signed here late last month and have reaffirmed their commitment to the accord.

In a statement issued here Thursday, the two Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) factions—Torit and Nasir—said they remained committed to the ceasefire agreement and to continuing peace talks.

They also undertook to make sure the violations did not take place again, said the statement, signed by James Wani Igga, head of SPLA leader John Garang's delegation, and Lam Akol of the faction led by Commander Riek Mashar.

In another statement, issued at the end of the Thursday session of the peace parley, new Sudan Council of Churches Chairman and Bishop Paride Taban of Torit Catholic diocese and Bishop Joseph Gasi of Tombora-Yambio appealed to the leaders of the two factions to abide by the ceasefire agreement. [passage omitted]

The ceasefire came as reports spoke of more than 100,000 people fleeing their homes in southern Sudan to escape fighting between the two groups.

Minister Criticizes Threats Against Libya

EA0512215391 Khartoum SUNA in English 0933 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Dec (SUNA)—There is no legal justification for any country to resort to threatening another one by using force over a dispute that could be dealt with legally, said justice minister and attorney general, Maj-Gen (rtd) Ahmad Mahmud [Hasan]. Commenting on the Libyan-West recent controversy regarding the Pan-Am plane's incident, the minister commended Libya's acceptance toward the conducting of investigations in this respect and even to stand before the International Court of Justice.

Colonel Khalifah Arrives in Juba 5 Dec

EA0512214991 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Dec (SUNA)—Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and deputy head of the political committee, arrived in Juba this morning with a number of ministers and state officials. Immediately upon his arrival his excellency acquainted himself with the security, political, and supply situation in Equatoria state, when he met commanders and officers of the Equatoria military zone. His excellency also visited the Juba military hospital and inspected the (?wounded) and the sick. He made a donation of (?100,000) Sudanese pounds to the hospital.

Tunisia

United States Denies Visa to Islamic Leader

NC0512173591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 1 Dec 91

[Text] Tunis, 1 Dec (MENA)—Press reports say that the United States has refused to give an entry visa to Rachid Ghannouchi, leader of the banned Islamic An-Nahda movement.

The Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH says that several Western and Arab states have refused to give Ghannouchi an entry visa because they consider him an undesirable person.

In May of this year Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel accused the An-Nahda movement of planning to overthrow the regime. He afterwards announced that the movement had also planned to assassinate the president and some ministers.

Oman

Sultan Qabus on Industrial, Regional Policy

PM2211151591 Muscat OMAN DAILY OBSERVER in English 19 Nov 91 pp 2, 3

["Full text" of Sultan Qabus' 18 November National Day speech in Muscat]

[Text] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

My dear Countrymen,

On this blessed day, when we celebrate this, our 21st anniversary of Oman's Renaissance, we are happy to congratulate you on this joyful and precious occasion. We thank Almighty God for His guidance and help through which we have been enabled to realise such great achievements. And we beseech Him to continue the gift of his blessings to our beloved Country.

My Countrymen,

We shall unswervingly maintain our goal of achieving the complete development of our country to which we are dedicated. It is only through hard work, perseverance, continuous effort and resolute national spirit, that nations can be built and attain their highest aspirations. Industry is the corner-stone of such development, if pursued on a scientific technical basis, so it may contribute constructively to the growth of our national economy. This has been the experience of many states. Since we are profoundly aware of the vital importance of this sector, we have dedicated this Year of Industry to the development of the resources of our country in this field, conscious of the experience of others. Our aim is to achieve an industrial basis which will confer on our country self-reliance wherever possible, through a cost-effective competitive effort in both quality and quantity.

The rise of a strong industry capable of performing its national role in social progress and prosperity, while at the same time maintaining the purity and cleanliness of the environment at the highest possible level, will always be our strategic role. We call upon all officials and others involved in industry to achieve this aim. The preservation and maintenance of the environment against the damage of pollution does not prevent the development of clean industrial practices using new technology.

The role of industry in the construction of the national economy will not be made abundantly clear unless it successfully exploits the skills and qualifications of the national human abilities and natural resources.

Development is not merely an aim in itself, it is the achievement of the well-being of mankind. Thus our understanding of this need should not be confined to the narrow pursuit of wealth alone but the progress and active involvement of the people. Only then can the structure of our country be unshakably built, proof against any storms.

Industrialists' initiatives must focus on the exploitation of the national resources with which God has blessed us. These must be utilised domestically in support of our national economy, and consequently the stimulation of the search for more resources.

In time, this will provide broader employment opportunities for our people throughout the country.

We will spare no effort in supporting the industry sector and in offering incentives for its continued fruitful growth. It is therefore essential for all those involved to increase their efforts to improve the quality of their products by sustaining the highest professional standards. This will require our national industries to devote the maximum resources to research and scientific and technical studies.

We have followed with care and appreciation the successful efforts made this year, by our people and Government in cooperating in the improvement of the quality and quantity of the output of our industries. We call for the effort and this cooperation to continue in the future. In expressing our wish for this continuity of effort we declare that the Year of Industry shall be extended throughout 1992, therefore ensuring that the experience of our national enterprises will be further increased in the coming year. This decision emphasises our deep commitment to the diversification of the sources of our national income through the development of our country's economy.

My dear people,

Of all the gifts with which God has blessed us, water is the greatest. It must be cherished and husbanded. Every effort must continue to be made to develop this resource. If extravagance is forbidden by Islam, it is even more applicable to water. Indeed, Islam emphasises in its teaching that it is our duty to conserve it. We cannot stress too strongly the need to observe the conservation measures laid down by Government in this respect. The use of this vital resource throughout the world can have a great impact on future development strategies, and indeed could become a decisive factor in political tension and this world security.

Our Government has plans to increase our country's water resources to meet our national requirements without arduously affecting the demands of conservation. These conservation demands will continue to indicate the degree of our people's ability to abide by these measures. Here, we urge you all to cooperate with the Government in implementing these plans and measures. We are confident that you will respond positively to this call.

My Countrymen.

The formation of the State Consultative Council was a pioneering work in the life of Omani society—a fruitful experiment which achieved its goals. We have said on a number of previous occasions how pleased we were at

the way in which this Council has performed. The Council's work over the past decade has particularly strengthened the development and improvement of our productive sectors and services throughout Oman. We wish to express our thanks and appreciation to the Council for the constructive role it has played.

Now, today, we face a new experiment. This is another step in the evolution of the Omani people. It provides a further opportunity for service to our country. Measures have been take for the formation of the Majlis Al-Shura in confirmation of the decision we announced last year, on our 20th National Day, the basis and principles of which were explained during our tour of the wilayats earlier this year. We wish to express our appreciation of the way in which the wilayats chose their candidates, which demonstrated the awareness of the Omani citizen. This response has confirmed our people's grasp of history and civilisation, and is evidence of our commitment to our country's march towards comprehensive development. This experiment of choosing the membership of the wilayats has provided us with a new dimension from which we can benefit in the future life of the Majlis, in particular, the assessment of the proportion of members necessary for striking the required nation- wide representational balance.

We congratulate the Omani citizens on this new Majlis and we pray to Almighty God to grant it his guidance and to give it success.

My Countrymen,

We have always conducted an objective policy in our external relations. We extend the hand of friendship and cooperation to all states which meet with us on the basis of principles of peaceful coexistence between countries and nations, and mutual respect for the rights of national sovereignty. We stress these principles, and we work with them in the pursuit of peace and stability, to ensure positive relations among the states of the world.

We shall continue our efforts with our brother states of the Cooperation Council towards the stability of our region and in the service of the basic interests of its peoples.

We wish to record the notable solidarity and cooperation of our states in overcoming all crises, and in our continued aim to ensure the observance of international law, and in the consolidation of the principles of legitimacy without which nations canot enjoy security and peace. Only thus can nations build a sure foundation of understanding and mutual confidence.

We wish to refer to the task which the States of the Council have requested the Sultanate to undertake in providing a strategic security plan for the region. The Sultanate has performed its duties in this respect. The States of the region must now define the framework which suits their means.

Here, on this glorious national occasion, we are pleased to repeat our sincere congratulations to the leadership and people of the brotherly state of Kuwait on the resumption of normal life. We pray to God that He will extend his help to them and provide them with guidance and success, so they may fully resume their notable role in the regional and international fields.

My Countrymen,

This year, the world has witnessed great developments and efforts in the resolution of age-old issues and difficult problems. In the past these concerns have exposed the world's peace and security to danger. We support these efforts and call for their increase, so an end may be put to the suffering of many nations who hope for a new dawn.

We have continued to call for a settlement of the Middle East problem which will bring a comprehensive and just peace for all parties. We therefore welcome the Madrid Peace Conference as an important step towards security and stability in this troubled region, which may lead to a better life for all its peoples, and especially for our brotherly Palestinian people who have suffered from occupation for almost half a century. We hope that the Conference will be able to achieve its goals and establish a permanent and just peace for all the States of the region, with the restoration of the legitimate rights of the struggling Palestinian people. Thus they will be able to devote their resources towards building a better life on their land.

We take this occasion to commend the role of the United States of America and the Soviet Union in their continual efforts to bring the peace process to a successful conclusion. We also commend the role of the European Community in their support for such efforts.

Today, the world is witnessing a period of fundamental change. This confirms that this decade will see the rise of a new world order in which we hope there will be no place for struggle and confrontation, but cooperation, understanding and peace.

We repeat our congratulations to you and our appreciation for all the productive efforts made for the benefit of our beloved land. We pray to God to lead our steps towards prosperity and to grant us guidance and success in our work.

We pray He will make our pure land a place for his continued blessing.

Thank you and peace be upon you all.

Malaysian King, Delegation Arrive on Official Visit

Received by Sultan Qabus

JN0212140591 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah, supreme ruler of Malaysia, and his delegation arrived in the country this afternoon on a four-day official visit to the Sultanate.

Leading the welcoming committee for His Majesty Azlan Shah was His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. [passage omitted]

Talks Note 'Amicable' Relations

JN0412154891 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Official talks were held at noon today at al-'Alam Palace between His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and His Majesty Sultan Azlan Shah, supreme ruler of Malaysia, who is currently visiting the Sultanate. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, said in a statement to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY following the talks, that his majesty the sultan of Malaysia has expressed his deep thanks and gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id for the generous hospitality with which he was greeted.

His excellency said talks at the meeting dealt with amicable relations and friendship between the two countries, which have deep roots in history and up to the present time, and the mutual desire to develop them on wider horizons in the future, in addition to emphasizing developing cooperation between the sultanate and Malaysia in all fields, particularly technical cooperation. [passage omitted]

Sultan Azlan Departs 5 Dec

JN0512152991 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The supreme ruler of Malaysia, Sultan Azlan Shah, left the country this afternoon at the end of an official four-day visit to the Sultanate, during which he held talks with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id dealing with developing bilateral cooperation in various fields. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Amir Receives Message From Kuwaiti Counterpart

JN0212135591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1117 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of Qatar, has received a verbal message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, dealing with issues related to the 12th session of the Supreme Council of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], which will be held in Kuwait.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY said Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, envoy of the amir of Kuwait, delivered the message at a meeting with the amir of Qatar in Doha today.

The agency said discussions at the meeting dealt with the situation in the region and a number of issues of concern to the GCC states.

The Kuwaiti envoy is currently touring a number of countries in the region.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Departs for Dakar Talks

LD0412232091 Riyadh SPA in English 1946 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Paris, Dec 4, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al- Faysal left today for Dakar to participate in the meetings of the Islamic foreign ministers due to start Thursday. The Islamic foreign ministers are scheduled to prepare the agenda of the sixth Islamic summit conference, due to be inaugurated in the Senegalese capital Monday.

Crown Prince Receives al-Qadhdhafi Envoy, Message

LD0512123491 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, has received a message for King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, from His Excellency Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan president [as neard].

Mr. 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qu'ud, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Agrarian Reform and Land Reclamation, delivered the message when the crown prince received him today.

Mr. Ibrahim al-Anqari, adviser to the custodian of the two holy mosques; Mr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin Bin-'Abd- al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjari, adviser to the crown prince's Court; and al-Tahir al-Dabbash, Libyan charge d'affaires in Saudi Arabia, were also present at the meeting.

The Libyan official arrived in Medina yesterday. Mr. Ibrahim al- Anqari, a royal protocol official, and the Libyan charge d'affaires received him at Prince Muhammad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Airport.

U.S. 'Foiled' Israeli Postponement 'Maneuver'

NC3011131091 Jeddah Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio in Persian 1400 GMT 29 Nov 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States rejected Israel's demand to postpone bilateral talks until 9 December, saying that peace talks should take place on the specified date, 4 December. The U.S. rejected the Israeli request for a five-day postponment a few hours after Tel Aviv concurred on participating provided talks are delayed.

It was stressed that the Middle East peace conference should take place on the date specified, 4 December, in Washington. Thus Washington foiled Israel's maneuver to provoke it. Political observers believe that Shamir's government's rebellious attitude, attempting to trifle with the date, will adversely affect Israel. The Americans consider the date fixed, and that talks should be just. Israel considers the peace to be one in which it should impose its permanent preponderance on all Arabs.

This is where new Israeli maneuvers to change the conference date generate the opinion that Israel does not want peace, certainly not any peace in which it does not have the upper hand. Despite this, the peace process will forge ahead strongly. In his letter to Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] Secretary General Hamid Al- Qabid, the U.S. President stressed that his country supports the peace process with all its might.

He said that all efforts should be accelerated to propel the peace process forward and to satisfy all sides involved. It may be said that the Israeli enemy is steeped in whims and fancies, believing the only favorable peace to be one in which all its wishes are realized. That will never be attained. With this kind of policy and with the difficulties they face, the Israelis should wake up from their past dreams and fancies. This is the objective which all of us should pursue.

Israel should be rescued from the clutches of hardline rulers. The U.S. insists it will not accept the Israeli prime minister's request to postpone the peace conference, based on U.S. policy of durable Middle East peace. According to Israel's lexicon, peace is that which maintains Israel's permanent preponderance on the Arabs.

This concept is not feasible bearing in mind current realities amd demands that (?the Israeli policy), which does not envision durable and just peace, should be ignored, and efforts made to try and consolidate a durable peace. The future, peace and security can only be attained under the aegis of amicable coexistence and a durable and permanent peace.

United Arab Emirates

Minister of State Meets USSR's Brutents

JN0412170691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1249 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 4 Dec (WAKH)—Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, minister of state for foreign affairs, met in Abu Dhabi today with Soviet president's adviser Karen Brutents, who is currently visiting the United Arab Emirates.

During the meeting, they reviewed current developments in the Middle East as well as bilateral cooperation and ways of promoting it. [passage omitted]

Gorbachev Envoy Volskiy Departs Abu Dhabi

JN0512153891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Dec (WAKH)—Arkadiy Volskiy, personal representative of the Soviet president and deputy chairman of the Committee for the Operational Management of Economy, and his delegation, left Abu Dhabi this morning following a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, the Soviet official delivered a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, regarding developments in the Middle East.

Republic of Yemen

Iraqi Delegation Departs After Several-Day Visit

JN3011143691 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] An Iraqi parliamentary delegation led by brother 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Janabi, member of the Iraqi National Assembly Speaker's Office and secretary of the assembly, left Sanaa this morning at the conclusion of a visit of several days. During the visit, it held a series of meetings with senior Yemeni officials on Yemeni-Iraqi ties, and ways to enhance and bolster them, especially through the exchange of expertise in the parliamentary domain, and benefiting from successful experiences in this field in the interests of the two fraternal peoples to help clear the Arab air of any contentious differences and bring about further rapprochement, harmony, and a close Arab ranks to promote the interests of the Arab and Islamic nation.

The Iraqi parliamentary delegation was seen off by brother Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi, member of the Speaker's Office of the Council of Representatives; Hasan al-Matari, chairman of the council's Foreign Relations Committee; and brother Muhsin Khalil, Iraqi ambassador in Sanaa.

Joint Statement Issued

JN3011144791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Nov 91

[Text] Sanaa, 30 Nov (INA)—The Yemeni Council of Representatives and the Iraqi National Assembly have urged Arab states, Islamic peoples, peace-loving countries and peoples, and international and humanitarian organizations to endeavor to lift the economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

In a statement issued here today following talks by the two bodies, the Yemeni Council of Representatives and the Iraqi National Assembly urged all peace lovers in the world, the regional and international organizations concerned with human rights, and Amnesty International to make an effective contribution to ending the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq. They stressed that the blockade has caused grave consequences to the life and health of Iraqi children in view of the acute shortage of food supplies, medicines, and medical equipment. This, they added, resulted in the illness of mothers and pregnant women and the death of many of them.

The statement called for giving the Iraqi people the chance to utilize their resources by themselves in order to provide food, medicine, and other necessities of life for their families. It also called for noninterference in Iraq's domestic affairs since this constitutes a violation of UN laws and is incompatible with international legitimacy and the new world order.

The statement stressed the need for serious and sincere action to restore the Arab nation's cohesion through the Arab League, the Arab Parliamentary Union, and the Islamic Conference Organization. It also stressed the need to overlook differences since they only serve the Zionist enemy, who is not hiding his aggressive and expansionist schemes.

The statement also stressed the need to cleanse the Arab atmospheres from all differences, to work for further rapprochement and cohesion among the brothers, to pool all resources and energies, and to unify the Arab ranks and opinion in order to serve the interests of the Arab and Islamic nations and support their just causes, particularly the issue of the Palestinian people who are suffering under the oppressive Zionist occupation of beloved Palestine.

The two sides stressed the need to strengthen brotherly relations between Iraq and Yemen and to bolster bilateral ties. It also stressed the need for further brotherly meetings to take advantage of the experiences and expertise in the parliamentary field and to broaden the scope for democratic practices which will help the security, wellbeing, stability, and progress of the two brotherly peoples on the path of the Arab nation's renaissance.

The Iraqi side to the talks was headed by 'Abd-al-Qadir al- Janabi, National Assembly secretary, and the Yemeni side was headed by Sa'id Muhammad al-Hakimi, member of the Yemeni Council of Representatives' presidency.

'Source' Denies Helicopters Landed in Iran

JN0512091791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—An official source has ridiculed a report promoted by some foreign radios, citing so-called Iranian sources, that two Iraqi helicopters landed on Iranian territory a few days ago and that its occupants asked for political asylum.

The report is untrue, baseless, and a figment of imagination and hallucination, the source told INA.

The source said the assumed sources are only wishing such a thing could happen, adding that the people and Army of Iraq are the strong shield that protects the homeland and its security, independence, and dignity.

Relatives of Former Defense Minister Arrested

NC0512174791 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1610 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] On the orders of the Governorate of Karkuk's Director of Security, relatives of dismissed Defense Minister Husayn Kamil were arrested in Takrit on the night of 2-3 December. They were transported to Baghdad in a vehicle with registration No. 6667.

Al-Zubaydi on Importance of Security, Stability

JN0412170991 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has discussed with Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan the nature of the tasks the ministry's competent agencies and departments perform, as well as the nature of the services that they render to citizens.

The prime minister affirmed the importance of the role being played by the ministry in providing citizens with security and stability during a visit to the Ministry of Interior and a meeting with the minister in the presence of ministry under secretaries and some ministry officials. He asserted that these two factors are important, since they help safeguard the citizens' security and comfort. He went on to say that the ministry's tasks, duties, and services are inextricably linked with the provision of these two factors.

The prime minister called for constant compliance with the instructions issued by leader President Saddam Husayn in this regard, and for viewing them as daily guidelines to help the ministry implement the tasks and duties assigned to it, especially with regard to the provision of various services to citizens.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi listened to an explanation presented by Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan on the ministry's tasks, work, the missions assigned to it, and its future action plan.

Al-Zubaydi Urges Joint Effort To Break Blockade

JN0512161091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi has said that the present stage belongs to the Arab people to say their word and to play a pioneering role in creating a bright future for the Arab nation.

Speaking at a meeting with the head of Iraqi Agronomists Union and members of the fraternal Jordanian and Libyan delegations, participating in the activity of the seventh scientific conference and the first agricultural fair of the Iraqi Agronomists Union, the prime minister stressed the importance of achieving Arab food security as a basic foundation of steadfastness and resistance against the U.S.-Zionist conspiracies against the Arab nation.

Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi pointed out that joint efforts by agricultural workers and a reinforcing of joint economic activity will contribute effectively towards breaking the unjust economic blockade imposed on Iraq, and bringing about the required coalescence to stand up to plots against the Arab nation and its future.

The prime minister reviewed the chapters of conspiracy and aggression which Iraq has faced, and the coalescence of the people with, and their rallying around, the unique leadership of President Saddam Husayn.

He noted that the inhuman practices of the United States and its allies against Iraq are clear and continuing, through U.S. insistence on maintaining the unjust economic blockade and depriving the Iraqi people—children, women, and elderly—of food and medicine.

Directive to Foil Police Impersonators Enacted

JN0512202391 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Dec 91

["Statement" issued by the President's Office in Baghdad on 5 December]

[Text] After receiving information indicating that some weak-willed people are posing as policemen, or members of other competent agencies, for the fun of it or to rob citizens' homes—given that three to five such cases have been reported recently—it has been decided that the mukhtar, or another member in authority in local councils, shall accompany the competent agencies when matters require an investigation or an arrest, in addition to other legal measures that are normally observed.

The competent agencies are expected to scrupulously abide by this directive. In addition, citizens should not obey any order that does not follow these guidelines. May God grant us success.

[Signed] Hatim Hamdan al-'Azzawi, chief of the President's Office.

Editor on Support for BABIL, AL-RAFIDAYN

JN0512192891 Baghdad AL-RAFIDAYN in Arabic 23 Nov 91 p 9

[Article by editor in chief Mazhar 'Arif: "We Have Received Your Messages"]

[Text] When the big sister BABIL and the little sister AL-RAFIDAYN ceased publication, we said their stoppage was only temporary. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn called on other papers to continue the march which BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN started, to defend the interests of the people and the homeland, under struggler Saddam Husayn's leadership, through democracy. This tackles any problem with objective criticism and assessment, and proposes the needed solution for this or that problem to improve the conduct of the state and life in society.

Some newspapers and publications, however, gloated over the word "temporary." In the view of those colleagues, the stoppage of BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN meant an end to competition, to challenge, and even to the embarrassment of those who are used to an unpopular style of fudging the problem and seeking to deceive officials and citizens over issues which are taking place behind the scenes. This neither serve the people nor the homeland.

We blame no one. However, we feel sorry that there is such a way of thinking; that some people approach matters from the perspective of personal gains and losses, as is the case in the world of commerce and money, and assess matters from the personal perspective of what they will gain or lose, and not from the perspective of furthering the interests of a people and their country.

Those shortsighted people do not realize that the stoppage of BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN has not taken place as a result of an order from higher authorities. Rather, the stoppage may have been a logical thing to do, so as to study the ground on which BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN stand in order to proceed with more vigor in the field of national journalism, and create a model for an unconventional publication. This would be a model that puts public interest before selfishness and personal interests, and, which rejects the ready-made journalistic formulas and opposes placation and nepotism.

Colleagues: We have received your message through the programmed silence that was observed over the temporary stoppage of BABIL and AL-RAFIDAYN. We have also heard your whispers and your gloating. In any case, gloating has never been one of the manifestations of manliness, or one of its attributes.

Thanks, a thousand thanks, to the citizens who wrote or telephoned us to voice their regret over an absence that shook them, even though it was a temporary absence.

Group Urges 'Real Representatives' at ICO Talks

LD0512193891 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) today called on the organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to grant Iraq's vacant seat at the forthcoming OIC summit in Dakar, to "the real representatives of the Iraqi people." SAIRI called on leaders of the 45-member organisation to help the Iraqi people against the ruling Ba'athist regime, which the statement said is responsible for the massacre of the masses and the economic blockade of the both southern and northern Iraq. "The regime in Baghdad has no popular base, coupled with its isolation at the regional and international levels," said SAIRI. OIC foreign ministers started their 3-day preparatory talks in Dakar, Senegal, to finalise the agenda for the summit conference to be held at the same venue December 9-12.

Oil Minister Leaves for OAPEC Meetings 5 Dec

JN0512094391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0918 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Dec (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has left for Cairo to take part in the 47th meetings of the ministerial council of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] to be held there on Saturday [7 Dec].

In a statement to INA, the oil minister stressed that the council meetings will discuss the organization's policy toward cooperating and coordinating with the member Arab states, and following-up the activities and guiding the participating Arab companies, in addition to supervising the OAPEC general secretariart's activities for the coming year.

Regarding Iraq's policy at the organization, the minister explained that Iraq always supports and backs efforts that aim at cooperation and coordination in the field of oil industry in the service of joint Arab action.

Barzani Said To Make 'Some Progress' in Baghdad

NC0512141691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 05 Dec 91

[Text] A Kurdish spokesman said that Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Democratic Party of Kurdistan [DPK], has concluded four days of talks in Baghdad by making some progress in efforts to end the economic siege imposed by the tyrant authorities on our people in the north.

Sirwan Diya', a DPK spokesman, added that Barzani has returned to northern Iraq to report to the Kurdistan Front coalition which he co-leads. He added that the front will hold a meeting tomorrow, after which a statement may be issued on the talks, which were held in a frank atmosphere.

Returns to Kurdistan, Comments on Talks

JN0512155491 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani returned to his headquarters in Kurdistan on 4 December, following a visit of several days to Baghdad.

Answering questions, from the official in charge of the Information Department at the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, regarding the results of his visit, Barzani said that, during his visit to Baghdad he met with senior government officials, headed by the president of the Republic. He added that he discussed with them some important issues, particularly the deteriorating and troubled situation that has recently prevailed in Kurdistan—the situation which has further complicated matters. He added that, because of this, he found that it was necessary to pay such a visit to Baghdad on 28 November, after contacting the political leadership of the Kurdistan Front.

Brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani noted that the meetings he held with the officials were positive. He added that the discussions dealt with the deteriorating situation, ways of tackling this situation, and the continuation of the dialogue between the Kurdistan Front and the government. Brother Barzani added: The government's side reiterated its commitment to what was agreed on recently by the Central Coordination Committee.

With regard to the return of administration and services, he affirmed that these administrative bodies and services will return to the areas where security and stability prevail, when the phenomenon of armed men disappears. He also noted that the government promised to maintain the Army's presence given the present positions; it promised that the Army will not conduct any military actions.

Barzani noted that talks, during the meeting, dealt with the release of a number of the Kurdistan Front peshmergas, who were recently arrested. Some of them were actually released on 4 December.

Regime Reinforcements Arrive in Marshlands

Guards Division Takes Up Position

LD0512132191 Tehran IRNA in English 0758 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 5, IRNA—A division of Iraqi Presidential Guards are taking position along Route 316 of Iraq which connects Qal'ih-Salih to marshlands in al-Madinah, a Tehran-based Iraqi opposition force announced Wednesday.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) said in a press release here that the task of the reinforcement troops is to offer back-up suppport to columns of Iraqi Army which are now laying siege on the marshlands along its eastern side.

Since a few months ago Division One of the Iraqi Army has been taking position on the western flank of the Route 316 which adjoins the marshlands in southern Iraq, SAIRI said.

Further on Regime Reinforcements

NC0512140291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] The defeated [word indistinct] Saddam Husayn has sent huge military reinforcements of his Republican Guards to the marshlands as part of the continued economic and military seige in these areas.

According to Iraqi sources, additional military units continued to arrive in the area last month and eventually established the 'Adnan division of the Republican Guards. The division's command is now stationed along the road between Qal'at Salih and the city's marshlands. The sources assert that the tyrant's troops have been entrusted with reinforcing the forces already surrounding the marshlands from the eastern side.

The 1st Division and its three brigades have been deployed for several months in this area, which is adjacent to the marshlands. In addition, several battalions of heavy- and medium-caliber artillery units have been stationed to the west of the said road for several months.

UN Official on 'Worst-Case Scenario' for Kurds

AU0512142791 Paris AFP in English 1416 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Geneva, Dec 5 (AFP)—Another 200,000 Kurds have fled shelling in northern Iraq, creating a "worst-case scenario" for U.N. relief workers who already have to cope with half a million refugees, the United Nations said here Thursday.

"We are extremely worried about the situation. The situation in northern Iraq responds to the worst-case scenario of our contingency planning," said Carrol Faubert, coordinator for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) emergency programme in the Gulf. "We only have contingency stocks for half a million people," the coordinator told a news conference.

The quantities of food, blankets and tents set up by U.N. teams for the winter are barely adequate for the refugees already there, while fuel shortages mean that distribution of food to newly displaced persons is a delicate affair, she said.

There are fears, Faubert added, that hungry people may be drawn to border areas where HCR distribution centers have been set up but where shelter is lacking.

Since the beginning of October, shelling of villages in the regions of Kelar, Kifri, and Chamchamal in Sulaymaniyah Province have forced 141,000 Kurds to flee to Said Sadik, she said. About 60,000 others fled to the province of Arbil.

Hundreds of thousands of Kurds initially fled Iraqi repression last spring after a failed Kurdish uprising in the wake of the Gulf war.

According to Faubert, the new refugees are fleeing areas in eastern Kurdistan where Kurdish fighters are pitted against the Iraqi army in sporadic clashes.

A further 20 million dollars are required to cover the next six months, she noted.

Moreover, according to diplomatic sources, the U.N. representative Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who has tendered his resignation, is having difficulty finding funds to pay the 500 U.N. guards deployed in the region under the terms of the memorandum of understanding between the United Nations and the Iraqi Government.

The prince travelled to Baghdad on November 19 to sign an extension of the relief accord. However, he was unable to persuade the Iraqi authorities to comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions calling for the supervised sale of Iraqi oil to finance relief operations.

Other U.N. sources have indicated that relief organisations are having problems with the diversion of aid resources to the black market.

The High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, said she hoped "reason will prevail" and that the Iraqi Kurds "will not have to face the freezing months without shelter for a second time. It is both their survival and our capacity to deliver which is at stake".

'Official Source' Denies UN Statement

JN0612102191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Dec (INA)—An official source today denied statements made yesterday by a spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva. According to the spokesman, 200,000 Kurds have become homeless since November as a result of the Iraqi troops' bombardment of the al-Sulaymaniyah and Irbil Governorates.

The source said: That spokesman is lying. The U.S. Government has ordered him to make such a statement to serve the misleading media campaign which the U.S. Administration has launched to pave the way for a new UN Security Council resolution to maintain the economic blockade imposed on Iraq.

The official source added: The world is used to such lies by the United States, especially during the week preceding the UN Security Council's meeting every two months to review the blockade against Iraq. These lies are becoming boring and even contradictory.

The source wondered: If such a great number of people are homeless and in need of shelter, clothing, and food, is this not sufficient justification for lifting the blockade and not for maintaining it?

The official source stated: The Geneva-based UNHCR should have been the first to take the initiative to lift the blockade. However, that organization has to keep its mouth shut or lie because it is being controlled by the U.S. Administration. The UNHCR has become a helpless organization in the wake of broadening international pressure to lift the blockade being imposed on Iraq.

Minister Levi on UN Efforts To Release POW's

TA0512155091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has said that Israel has no new information regarding the fate or condition of navigator Ron Arad. He expressed the hope that the POW and MIA affair will be concluded before the end of UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's tenure at the end of this month. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz spoke with the foreign minister today.

[Begin recording] [Levi] As far as Israel is concerned, we are holding continuous and direct contacts. We are being updated constantly, and we are full of anticipation. I would like to hope for the success of the mission he took upon himself in the coming days. We have done our part and will continue to do so.

[Horowitz] You are aware of the fact that the secretary general will end his tenure at the end of the month. Do you believe that all the Western and non-Western hostages in Beirut will indeed be released by the end of this month?

[Levi] All of our efforts were also aimed at this date. I would like to hope that he will be successful. We, at any rate, are doing our very best to facilitate his success and to provide no excuse for his failure.

[Menahem] Does Israel have any information on the fate or current condition of navigator Ron Arad?

[Levi] Up to this moment, the answer is no. [end recording]

Hostage Negotiators Meet UN Head, Envoy

TA0612084191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 p 2

[Report by Avi Bnayahu and Yehuda Tzur]

[Excerpt] Uri Lubrani, the head of the Israeli team negotiating on POW and MIA affairs, and Uri Slonim, the defense minister's adviser on POW's and MIA's, left yesterday for meetings in Europe with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and his special envoy, Giandomenico Picco. Picco recently returned from Syria after negotiating the quick conclusion of the hostage crisis.

Israeli security elements have confirmed that "vigorous behind-the-scenes contacts are being pursued in a bid to conclude the Israeli POW and MIA affair." They stressed, however, that so far, no new information has been received regarding the fate of navigator Ron Arad and that no deal has been clinched between the sides.

It is believed in Israel that, with the release of the last American hostage and in view of the dynamic contacts for the release of the two German hostages, the UN secretary general's efforts will now focus on an exchange deal between Israel and the Shiite organizations.

Sources in the defense establishment stressed again that if such a deal indeed is made, Israel will be willing to release all the Lebanese prisoners held in the south Lebanese al-Khiyam prison and in Israeli prisons. [passage omitted]

Lubrani Returns; Results Unclear

TA0612112991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] The head of Israel's hostage negotiating team, Uri Lubrani, returned to Israel this morning after meetings on the hostage issue. Lubrani held talks with the UN secretary general's special envoy, Giandomenico Picco, in Germany. He also met last night in London with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar. It is unclear at this time whether Lubrani received any new information on Israeli navigator Ron Arad. Lubrani and Defense Minister Moshe Arens have said that under no circumstances would Israel release Shaykh 'Ubayd before a resolution to the problem of Israel's captive and missing servicemen.

Baraq, Arens Comment on Tapuah Settlement Issue

TA0512185391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, the chief of staff, this evening lit Hanukkah candles with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] wounded in Tel Hashomer Hospital. He commented on the Tapuah Junction matter and said the IDF will follow the decisions of the political echelons. According to him, the civilians currently present at the site do not disturb the soldiers' activities. At the same time, Gen. Baraq said he expects the settlers to remove the mobile homes on their own, and without the Army's intervention.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 5 December cites Baraq as saying: "The IDF will take care of removing the mobile homes from the Tapuah Junction in due time." The report adds that the chief of staff said the defense establishment decided "to evacuate the settlers at the proper time." The report also cites Baraq as saying that "there is no disagreement between him and the defense minister concerning the Rehelim settlement."]

Defense Minister Moshe Arens told National Religious Party Knesset members that the government had decided to set up a Nahal Brigade military presettlement in Tapuah, which would become a civilian settlement in the future. Our correspondent adds that Arens also said there is no reason for a clash between the settlers and the IDF. The defense minister promised to consider leaving the settlers' memorial watch on the site, and to give his answer on this in a few days.

Arens Agreement on Tapuah Reported

TA0612142891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has struck an agreement with the squatters at the Tapuah junction whereby 15 civilians will be allowed to remain on the site for another month as a memorial vigil for Rahel Druck and Yitzhaq Rofe, who were murdered in that spot. In exchange, the squatters promised to reach a decision whereby the trailers would be removed to a settlement nearby.

Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that the agreement was made between Minister Arens and the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Knesset Member Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party welcomed the agreement, saying Minister Arens understood the feelings of the settlers and had prevented an undesirable confrontation.

Several dozen members of Peace Now arrived this afternoon at the Tapuah junction to demonstrate against what has been happening there. The Army did not allow them to get to the trailers were the 15 women are staying. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that after arguing for about an hour they drove back to Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the rabbis of settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have issued a ruling whereby from now on each time there is a terrorist attack settlers will move to the site of the incident and squat there until they get real results. Moreover, the rabbis say, the response to terror is settlement and confiscating the houses of rioters. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that the rabbis emphasize in their ruling that the settlers should avoid confrontations with the Army.

Politicization of Defense Establishment Viewed

TA0612115191 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 p 2

[Editorial: "No Professional Deliberation"]

[Text] In any democratic country, the Army is subordinate to the political echelons: the government and the elected political bodies that determine the defense policies. No defense minister, however, operates in a void. His decisions on defense policies have to be made on the basis of professional consideration and the recommendations of professional ranks.

Just as a finance minister cannot print bank notes or levy taxes contrary to the judgment of his ministry's economic and professional experts, it is inconceivable for a defense minister to make defense-related decisions that run counter to the professional ranks' recommendations and are based on partisan factors or matters of internal rivalry among his party's various factions.

Unfortunately, far-reaching politicization of the defense establishment was introduced for the first time after Moshe Arens was appointed defense minister. Minister Arens uses his bureau for party gatherings. He exploits military censorship for political causes, such as the public acclaim accorded his trip to China.

It appears that Arens' exploitation of his position for personal partisan needs has grown as a result of the partisan rivalry with Beni Begin and David Levi. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Defense Ministry are sensitive systems which rest on national consensus and which former defense ministers refrained from involving in partisan disputes.

Arens' surrender to a group of rampaging settlers, contrary to the Army view, was the last straw. Out of domestic policy considerations, Arens lent a hand to acts that jeopardize the peace conference. His proposal to deport residents of the territories at the most sensitive moments, such as the Madrid conference and the talks in Washington, has proved that Arens is losing the ability to make decisions based on national political calculations and that he is attaching undue importance to the party contest in which he is about to engage.

This sort of calculation—such as courting favor with the party Central Committee—is not absent from his less official decisions. He used the defense budget to finance an additional Irgun museum at the Likud headquarters; he had a book on the history of Betar published by the defense establishment; he made blatantly political appointments, such as the new Betar-affiliated Nahal Brigade commander.

The defense minister, who acts on calculations alien to his ministry, has also attempted to impose his views on the Army in crucial matters, such as the Arrow project. This disregards the opinion of the IDF and is therefore liable to cost many billions. Arens, who was the main reason for the waste of billions of dollars on the Lavi project, is trying to prove today that he "holds the reins" to the system by giving preference to his personal outlook over the opinions of professional experts. This attitude is very dangerous, because he is a civilian and not an expert on security matters, and his erroneous decisions are therefore liable to divert sorely needed resources from the most vital causes.

Settlers To Send Public Relations Team to U.S.

TA0612113291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] The committee for settlements on the Golan Heights has decided to send a public relations team to Washington. The team will work alongside the Israeli delegation to talks with the Syrians.

The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, who heads Israel's team for negotiations with the Syrians, was informed of this decision this morning. Golan Committee Chairman Eli Malka says the Washington media team will be funded by private donations.

Sources Doubt Libyan Antiterrorism Claim

TA0512190091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Security sources in Israel are doubtful about the declarations of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that he will sever his country's ties with international terrorist organizations. They told our Arab affairs correspondent Arye Gus that the sincerity of al-Qadhdhafi's declarations will tested when he decides to expel the Palestinian terrorist organizations from his country. The sources pointed to the fact that terrorists who participated in several terrorist acts, including the aborted attack on the Nizzanim beach, came from Libya, where they had been training.

IDF, SLA Return Fire at 'Terrorist' Targets

TA0612091391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] outpost on the fringes of the security zone in southern Lebanon came under automatic gunfire and RPG attack last night. No one was hurt. The UN Interim Force in Lebanon has told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that the Israel Defense Forces and SLA artillery fired back at terrorist targets north of the security strip.

Sources: 'Noted Increase' in Territories Incidents

TA0612115591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 p A3

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Numerous incidents were reported yesterday in the territories. A young Arab woman made an attempt to stab an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier near the Bet-El settlement gas station. She was detained. [passage omitted]

In the West Bank, a local youth was shot and wounded by soldiers as he was about to hurl a Molotov cocktail at an IDF patrol moving on foot in the Nabulus casbah. He was sent to the hospital with moderate injuries. [passage omitted]

A fragmentation grenade thrown at an IDF patrol in Bani-Suhaylah yesterday exploded 50 meters from the soldiers, causing no injuries. [passage omitted]

The security forces demolished the house of a resident of Bethlehem who was suspected of throwing a grenade at Rachel's Tomb.

Palestinian sources reported that the body of Mahmud Hasan 'Ali Bibliq, from the al-Burayj refugee camp, was discovered yesterday afternoon. He had been shot in the head, and his body bore marks of torture. The man is believed to have collaborated with the authorities and was probably assassinated by camp residents.

Other incidents occurred in the Jabalyah, al-Burayj, Khan Yunus, and Rafah refugee camps.

Two IDF soldiers suffered slight injuries yesterday when a stone hit their car in the Nabulus District. They were treated at a hospital.

Military sources stress that there has been a noted increase in the number of casualties in stoning and shooting incidents in the territories. The incidence of attacks with explosive charges and grenades has also risen.

IDF Spokesman Issues Intifadah Statistics

TA0612125691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 6 Dec 91 p 10

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] The four years of the intifadah have exacted a high toll from the Palestinians, as well as Israeli civilians and soldiers. Hundreds were killed, thousands wounded, and thousands locked up. Others were deported. Houses were sealed and demolished. There was also a heavy economic price to pay: The defense budget had extra expenditures, the state coffers lost revenue; in the territories, the standard of living declined and jobs in Israel—a source of livelihood—were lost.

The following statistics have been released by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman and are based on data accumulated by the General Staff's Operations Branch and the Central and Southern Commands. They are updated to the beginning of December 1991. The statistics do not include East Jerusalem.

—445 Palestinians were killed by the IDF in the West Bank.
—262 Palestinians were killed by the IDF in the Gaza Strip.
—42 Palestinians were killed in inmate clashes in detention facilities.
—517 Palestinians were assassinated by their brethren for suspected collaboration with Israel.
—Six Palestinians were killed while preparing explosive charges.
—16 Israeli civilians were killed by Palestinians in the territories.
—11 IDF soldiers were killed by Palestinians in the territories.
—1,768 IDF soldiers were injured in the course of operations in the West Bank.
—1,781 IDF soldiers were injured in the course of operations in the Gaza Strip.
—1,310 Israeli civilians were injured in the West Bank.
—104 Israeli civilians were injured in the Gaza Strip.
—45,000 Palestinians were locked up for various periods in the course of the intifadah.
—8,317 Palestinians are currently held in detention facilities.
—66 Palestinians were deported from the territories (29 of these from Gaza).

—363 houses were demolished (150 of these in Gaza).
—240 houses were sealed (81 of these in Gaza).
—138,354 disturbances were recorded in the West Bank.
—24,408 disturbances were recorded in the Gaza Strip.
—236 incidents involving firearms were recorded in the territories (including 117 incidents during the last year alone).
—108 hand grenades were thrown at Israeli soldiers and civilians (including 79 in the past year).
—3,666 Molotov cocktails were thrown (including 892 in the past year).
—361 explosives charges were planted (including 114 in the past year).
—1,203 arson cases (including 153 in the past year) were recorded.

The defense budget's direct annual outlay for the intifadah stood at 0.5 billion shekels. The total outlay incurred in the four years of the intifadah: 2 billion shekels.

'Grave View' of Fund-Raising for Palestinians

TA0512121391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpts] It seems Arabs from north Israel are celebrating the intifadah's fourth anniversary a few days prematurely. A body calling itself the Aid Committee has announced what it terms a humanitarian fund-raising campaign for Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The prime minister's Arab affairs adviser takes a grave view of the activity. More details from our correspondent Yo'el Dar:

The new fund-raising campaign was launched with the distribution of pamphlets by young people, mostly high school students. The printed material contains not just a song of praise for the intifadah performers, but also a communication to the Arabs urging them to make generous contributions for their brethren beyond the Green Line. The solicited items are foodstuffs, clothes, and blankets.

The organizers, members of the Aid Committee, or Lajnat al-Ighathah in Arabic, claim that hundreds of Arabs volunteered to collect the items. They belong to 12 clubs and public bodies, such as the Communist Youth Movement, the Muslim Boy Scouts, student councils, and neighborhood representations. [passage omitted]

A perusal of the recent pamphlet reveals that the Aid Committee is proud of the achievements of the intifadah which they regard—to use their words—as a powerful tool in the materialization of the political aspirations of the residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. It can be assumed that this action is but one of a series of events with which HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] and its affiliates plan to mark the intifadah anniversary.

The prime minister's Arab affairs adviser takes a grave view of the reappearance of the phenomenon called fund-raising campaigns. Dr. Alexander Bligh believes that this campaign is tantamount to an expression of solidarity with the intifadah. After the [Gulf war] fighting began, he says, Israeli Arabs proved their political maturity, and it is a pity that such an ostentatious campaign should damage cooperation which began last January.

Number of Territory Workers in Israel Drops

TA0512144891 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 5 Dec 91 p 8

[Report by Efrayim Davidi]

[Text] "The number of workers from the territories employed in the Israeli economy dropped by 14. 3 percent in the first half of 1991, compared to the second half of 1990, and by 8.8 percent compared to the same period last year." These figures are quoted from a survey of employment in the territories and of workers from the territories in Israel, which was prepared by the Histadrut's Institute for Economic and Social Research.

The study showed that 68 percent of the residents of the territories employed in Israel work in the construction industry, 8.4 percent work in industry, 13.5 percent are employed in agriculture, and approximately 10 percent work in other fields.

Li'ora Appel, the institute's economist, said that the number of Palestinian workers in Israel is about 84,000 men and women.

Sentences of Muhammad's Army Members Reduced

JN0512171091 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1617 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] In the spirit of yesterday's royal, magnanimous initiative by His Majesty King Husayn, His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, has decided, under Article 10 of the State Security Court Law, to revise the sentences handed down by the court, and reduce them as follows:

A. Hard labor for life for the following is being reduced to 15 years at hard labor:

First, Mustafa Hasan Musa Sulayman.
Second, Yusuf Muhammad Hasan Abu-'Ali.
Third, Salim Muhammad Salim al-Sa'idi.
Fourth, Khadr 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Hawshar.

B. The 15 years at hard labor for the following is being reduced to 10 years at hard labor:

First, Muhammad Hasan Khalifah.
Second, Samih Muhammad Mahmud Abu-Zaydan.
Third, Walid Ahmad Mahmud Abu-al-Sa'ud.
Fourth, Haytham Zuhdi Muhammad 'Abdallah Darwish

C. The 10 years at hard labor for the following is being reduced to seven and a half years at hard labor:

First, Khalid Mahmud Muhammad Hammad.
Second, 'Amir Muhammad Isma'il Abu-'Amir

D. The seven and a half years at hard labor for 'Ali Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Qadir 'Abdallah is being reduced to five years at hard labor.

Fifth [as heard], the ratification of the verdict, handed down by the court concerning defendant Muhammad Jamil 'Ayyad al-Wahidi, which reduces the sentence to four years at hard labor.

Paper Says Israeli Boycott 'Okayed' by U.S.

JN0612111991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Dec 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Is Israel's Absence an American Decision?"]

[Text] Had Israel not received a green light from America, it would not have dared to boycott the talks in Washington. Had its absence not been okayed by the Americans, Israeli negotiators would have taken their seats at the negotiation table in the U.S. capital.

It is the Americans, not the Israelis, who will withdraw from the West Bank, Gaza, the Syrian heights, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Jordanian territory. The decision to pull out is an American one, given the fact that the decision to launch the aggression and to occupy Arab lands was made with the help of U.S. weapons, support, and political backing—something that has been going on since 1967, and even before.

We said yesterday that Israel's boycott of the bilateral talks is an insult to President Bush, Mr. Baker, and the American people. Today, we emphasize this fact and add to it that some American officials apparently never hesitate to insult their country for the sake of Israel, or even to harm it to serve Israel. If this is not true, then how can one explain the fact that American officials are facing the shameful Israeli conduct with their hands tied behind their backs? Why do the Americans not take the seats of the Israelis and discuss with the Arabs how to implement international legitimacy? In criminal courts, individual criminals on the run or refusing to appear before the court can still be tried.

The United States is now inaugurating itself as a leader of the world and a country responsible for resolving international and regional conflicts. It is threatening all outlaws and calling for the implementation of all UN resolutions. President Bush, who has been portrayed by the United States and the West as a hero of world peace, a hero of justice and values, remains silent on Israel's insult to his country and people. Unless the answer is that a green light has been given by the President, a man who "does not bargain over world legitimacy" when it comes to Iraq's children, elderly, and sick people and the right of millions of Iraqis to bread, but bargains over this legitimacy when it comes to its strategic, racist, and terrorist ally.

We are not asking the Arab delegations to leave Washington. In fact, we insist that they stay near the White House, the Congress, the Pentagon, and the Western media to see whether the Americans are honest, as we hope, or liars, as we fear. We warn against a belief that Washington can invite our Arab nation to the State Department to insult and scorn it, and then ask Arab delegations to pack their things and return home. The return journey, this time, will pass through thousands of corpses of Iraqi children, who have been martyred by a lack of food, milk, and medicine. And this time there will be equal rancor in all the capitals of this deeply wounded Arab world, which is being pushed almost to the limit by Western lying into setting fire to everything.

Israel Talks 'Possible' If Confined To Withdrawal

NC0612111491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Michel Ma'luli, deputy speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, has emphasized that bilateral negotiations with Israel are possible provided they are confined to scheduling Israel's withdrawal from the south and western al-Biqa'.

In a press interview [not further specified], Ma'luli indicated that the Lebanese authority has pledged before the world that if Israel were to withdraw, the Lebanese Army would impose security within 48 hours after Israel's withdrawal.

Al-Hirawi, Delegation Return From Syria

NC0512182391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Excerpt] The Lebanese delegation led by President Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus a short time ago after congratulating President Hafiz al-Asad on his reelection to a fourth term. President al-Asad accompanied the Lebanese president and delegation to the airport to see them off.

The Lebanese delegation arrived in Damascus at 1015 today. It met with President al-Asad at 1200 in the presence of the Syrian delegation. President al-Asad then hosted a banquet in the People's Palace in honor of the Lebanese delegation which was attended by senior Syrian officials.

An expanded meeting was then held between the Lebanese delegation and President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and General Mustafa Talas.

President al-Asad spoke for more than 90 minutes at this expanded meeting. He dealt with the situation in Lebanon, the Middle East peace negotiations, and the question of implementing UN Resolution 425. President al-Asad stressed support for the Lebanese stand which seeks the implementation of UN Resolution 425 and ending the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territories. He stressed that while there are interpretations of UN Resolution 242 on the Middle East crisis, this does not apply to UN Resolution 425 which is very clear.

President al-Asad also reviewed the situation in Lebanon since 1976 when the Syrian initiative on Lebanon was launched and through which the Syrian leadership stressed its full support for Lebanon, that there is no discrimination between the Lebanese, and that Syria's sole concern is Lebanon's unity and its insistence on a good relationship with all the Lebanese [words indistinct].

Following the expanded meeting which ended at 1700, the two delegations left for al-Mazzah military airport where President al-Asad and senior Syrian officials saw off the Lebanese delegation. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Mojahedin Alliance To Replace Interim Cabinet

LD0512152391 Tehran IRNA in English 1425 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 5, IRNA—Leaders of Afghan mojahedin groups based in Pakistan have decided to disband the so-called interim cabinet set up by the 7-party Pashto speaking alliance in February 1989, and form in its stead a jihad command council with a somewhat wider representation.

A mojahedin source told IRNA here today that an agreement to the effect was signed recently following the mojahedin leaders' meetings with the Pakistani president and the prime minister.

"Although Sebghatollah Mojaddedi is one of the signatories to the agreement, he is not optimistic towards its results," it added.

According to the source, the other signatories to the accord are Burhanuddin Rabbani, Seyyed Ahmad Gaylani, Asef Mohseni, Mowlavi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Mowlavi Nasrollah Mansur, Qazi Amin Weqad and Mowlavi Samiollah.

He also indicated that efforts are underway to include the Iran-based Persian speaking Islamic Unity Party of Afghan mojahedin.

Two of the Pashto leaders, 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and Yunes Khales, have refused to sign the agreement. Khales was not invited for the meetings with the Pakistani president and premier, because of his opposition to political solutions and negotiation with Moscow.

Sayyaf for his part, said the source, insists on the setting up of a 500-member council to draft the future constitution and government of Afghanistan.

Mojaddedi during his speech at a seminar for the reconstruction of Afghanistan in the Pakistani capital on Wednesday, called for holding of a loya jergah (consultative council) composed of ulema [Islamic scholars], tribal chiefs and the Afghan technocrats residing outside the country, to formally dissolve the Pashto provisional cabinet.

"The loya jergah should announce its no confidence in the interim cabinet and dissolve it," he told the seminar.

In related news, the Peshawar-based daily FRONTIER POST quoting Afghan resistance sources wrote that former king Zaher Shah is to lead the new provisional government with Burhanuddin Rabbani as the prime minister.

The source told the daily that most of the mojahedin leaders have agreed to form a new provisional government before the year 1992 starts.

The agreement, if materialised, can be considered a major development on the Afghan political scene especially in view of the forthcoming joint commission meet between the Soviet Union and mojahedin leaders.

Pakistan seems to be more eager for a political solution to the Afghan crisis on the basis of the United Nations plan, particularly with the United States and Saudi Arabia throwing their weight behind Islamabad in this regard.

Najibollah Addresses Assembly on Peace Process

LD0512231391 [Editorial Report] Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari at 1630 GMT on 5 December carries a 60-minute recorded address by President Najibollah at the end of the Meli Shura's seventh session in Kabul on 5 December.

Najibollah opens with greetings to Meli Shura delegates "at a time when fresh national and international developments on a political solution to the Afghan situation have emerged." He asks the delegates to play their role in encouraging the people to cease fighting in their regions and to take to their constituents "the existing realities" in Afghanistan. Najibollah reviews the work of previous Meli Shura sessions, particularly the prime minister's contribution to its work. "Despite the fact that the extremist groups continue the war, the Republic of Afghanistan concentrated its all-around efforts toward solving the Afghan question politically and peacefully" during parliament's last sessions, he says. Experience has shown that every time there are prospects for solving the Afghan question peacefully, the "extremist groups" intensify attacks—"with the direct encouragement and protection of their protectors"—without considering the country's national interests and humanitarian standards, Najibollah emphasizes. "Unfortunately, these have resulted in losses of life and damage to property for citizens in residential areas," he says.

Najibollah then recalls that the "extremists" attacked Gardeyz, Nangarhar, Zabol, Helmand, and a number of other regions as the UN five-point plan and the U.S.-Soviet joint statement on ceasing arms to all sides in the Afghan conflict were declared, indicating the "extremist" opposition to peace. He continues, "It should be said with pride, however, that the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces this time, as before, neutralized the opposition's attacks in the aforementioned areas and captured large caches of weapons and ammunition from the armed opposition."

At 1637 GMT Najibollah hails the fact that the country has remained relatively stable despite greater military pressure in a number of regions over the past three months. He adds that the "extremists" failed to attain military success in that period. "The Republic of Afghanistan was able to maintain transportation channels and the supply of food staples and goods along the country's highways despite all the extremists' attempts," he reports, adding that the food distribution network

continues to improve. Najibollah then thanks private investers for their efforts in supplying "about 400,000 tons of wheat and about 100,000 tons of fuel from foreign sources," and briefs delegates on the state's major economic measures. He cites a number of development projects on which 10 billion afghanis have been spent.

At 1640 GMT Najibollah mentions various projects which were commissioned or will be commissioned soon. On foreign assistance to Afghanistan, he says: "The United Nations has set aside $70.3 million for the Republic of Afghanistan to complete [words indistinct]. Parallel to all other events, there are new developments for solving the Afghan issue politically. The Republic of Afghanistan Government, which has put at the forefront of its duties bringing an end to the war and restoring peace nationwide, regards comprehensive understanding through talks and dialogue between Afghans as the most fundamental path for the Afghan issue."

Najibollah then turns to the UN five-point plan and the Soviet- U.S. joint statement on Afghanistan, saying they are the best way to solve the Afghan issue, for which the Afghan Government has expressed its support. Najibollah then says: "An opposition delegation traveled to Moscow to meet the RSFSR authorities and some Soviet officials. The Republic of Afghanistan Government formally announced its stand on this visit through a statement and an interview of which you are aware. Because there are many rumors and a political hue and cry regarding this statement, I would like to shed light on some of its points." He then begins discussing the nature, form, contents, words, and style of the joint Soviet-mojahedin statement and other formalities required for issuing such a statement.

At 1643 GMT, in discussing the joint Soviet-mojahedin statement, Najibollah criticizes the mojahedin reaction to the proposal that Afghan refugees return to Afghanistan, saying: "They rejected it because they did not want the refugees to return to their country. They used them as human shields, human reserves, fodder for their guns. That was why they did not agree on this issue. They should not have boycotted the other issue, the issue of the Soviet limited forces' return from Afghanistan. However, they boycotted it at the time and did not participate in the Geneva accords and did not sign them, which means that they in fact were not interested in seeing the Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan. It was like this in reality, too. The Soviet limited forces' presence in Afghanistan gave them a pretext for launching a so-called jihad, which by itself was a pretext for achieving their financial, material, and armament interests. Therefore, no one participates when we go to sign a document on the Soviet forces' withdrawal and make a commitment."

Najibollah then turns to Article Two of the statement, saying: "If you look closely, you will find that it mentions the need for a transition. We emphasized the need for a transitional period when we announced the national reconciliation policy and when we made several proposals—more than 30 proposals, most of which addressed a transitional period. I first discussed this issue with leaders at the Nonaligned conference."

At 1650 GMT, after a three-minute break in transmission, Najibollah emphasizes that "agreement on text, meanings, words, and specifications should be inserted in the documents. We accept that it was like this. I ask that when they participate in talks like these in the future and launch a propaganda campaign that says the talks were very successful and that there was a great outcome... [changes thought] they should not send such a delegation to prepare Article One [on the mojahedin visit to Moscow] to condemn themselves in Article Two."

Najibollah adds: "Despite the important sentence on the need for a transitional period, they say: No, we have already reached agreement with the Soviets, namely that the Soviets should create an Islamic government for us. Why do they then condemn the Soviet limited contingent's arrival in Afghanistan when they allegedly created a puppet regime here?"

He then warns the opposition that the Afghan people are very clever and intelligent and that the opposition should not humiliate them for their own political interests. He adds: "I hope they hear me; understand this; leave this political propaganda to one side; show that they are truly ready, like responsible people in this special historic moment, to show self-sacrifice; say that we do not have any [word indistinct] to ensuring peace, which has been transformed into an urgent need of the Afghan people. I declare that the issue of being in power is not for discussion; they should say the same thing, that gaining power is not for discussion. However, as you see, jihad and Islam were not the issue; they were only the means. For what? To gain power. It is not important to them if this attainment of power takes place even through the Soviets. Fortunately, they have highlighted another point with this action, with this move. Despite the fact that they still say that Najib's is a government supported by the Soviets, that Najib is supported by the Soviets, they discuss only one side of the issue in their propaganda, namely that Najib has been left alone. What happened to Najib then? He has not become a Westerner or easterner or northern or southerner. He became an Afghan. An honor greater than this cannot be found. However, if we should avoid the propaganda form and shape of the issue and see that an accurately organized plan by certain circles of Pakistan's military intelligence service is discussed. [sentence as heard]

"By sending this delegation, a conflict was created over the delegation's change of leadership. When the delegation returned, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said that such a negotiation or such a statement is a black, shameful mark in the history of jihad. He has said over the past two day that our problem is solved and that we will all participate."

At 1702 GMT Najibollah turns to address Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, president of the interim government.

Najibollah warns Mojaddedi not to become to happy as president of the interim government because it is all a political game of which he is the object. They have already chosen their real candidate for the position, and they will introduce their candidate at a proper time in history, Najibollah says, adding: "We have seen, and all of you heard, that a leadership council was set up; it was just formed. This leadership council, although signed by Mojaddedi and Gaylani... [changes thought] but you heard Mojaddedi's interview last night, I am obliged to say; otherwise they might say that my leadership is an issue. However, this leadership council, as it was clear from the very beginning, will end up in failure."

At 1710 GMT Najibollah repeats that the council plan will fail, saying that it will do so because it deprives certain forces. He adds: "As Benon Sevon, special envoy of the UN secretary general, formally announced the UN stand on solving the Afghan issue politically... [changes thought] We can say once again that we emphasized the principle of talks, dialogue, and understanding in all of our plans and proposals. The Moscow dialogue is also one of [words indistinct]. This principle must be seriously considered, however, that in every round of talks and dialogue the most major elements are the Afghan sides."

Najibollah then turns to the subject of discord among opposition groups on solving the Afghan issue. Some support the use of force; some ask for the Afghan Government to step down; some say that only one factor is responsible for the present Afghan disaster, whereas there are many factors, he notes. The real cause of bloodshed in the country, Najibollah claims, is foreign interference, adding: "I say clearly that if foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs stops now and the Afghans are left alone, they can solve the Afghan issue quickly, in line with the country's supreme interests. I fully believe this."

At 1717 GMT Najibollah discusses citizens living in regions under opposition control, emphasizing that they do not want the Afghan issue to be solved militarily and through the existence of "extremist" forces. He then statesg: "I want to mention to you, my compatriots, that I have met various groups in our society over the last two months, including ulema [Islamic scholars], intellectuals, teachers, lecturers, scholars, businessmen, Shia and Sunni religious leaders, and traders," on implementing the peace process and on the need for a transitional period. "I continue to meet people," he says, "and the results will be presented to the Afghan people in one way or another. They all feel that the Afghans themselves should create a mechanism within the framework of the five-point plan to prevent a power vacuum during the transitional period. The present relative stability not only should be protected but also further strengthened."

At 1721 GMT Najibollah discusses UN efforts to end arms supplies to sides in the Afghan conflict, before continuing on the subject of efforts for an Afghan peace settlement: "The negotiators should discuss all the components of the mechanism of the transitional period, reach a decision acceptable to all sides, and then become a center for gathering the political forces and establishing mutual cooperation among them. When such a mechanism is agreed upon and is implemented, when national and international guarantees are created for establishing peace and stability in the country, and when everyone becomes confident that the path is being prepared for free elections, then the question of the stands of personalities should be discussed. If I may explain it clearly: They think they can solve the very complicated and important Afghan issue by trading personalities, but the issue is multifaceted and is very complicated. The Afghans should get together not by means of removing forces but rather by means of being united." He adds with a laugh: "Sometimes they spread the rumor that all the problems will be solved if Najib resigns."

Najibollah adds that Afghanistan's problems cannot be resolved through his removal and that they can only be resolved through talks and general elections. On the national reconciliation policy that his government initiated and advanced, he says that it is absurd that the opposition now says that his government should not participate in any talks, dialogue, or election.

At 1725 GMT Najibollah compares the Cambodian situation with the Afghan situation, saying: "Four sides participated in this process. One of them is the [words indistinct], who led the Pol Pot regime in Cambodia, when over 2 million people were killed. Nobody tells him not to participate in talks. Gulbuddin, disregarding his [word indistinct] who is regarded as the murderer of the people of Afghanistan, he participates in the talks and tells Najibollah who the initiator of the national reconciliation policy is, and not to participate in the talks."

Touching on the Arab-Israeli talks, Najibollah says: "In the exchange of views, this point was mentioned, that if all political forces are not ready for talks, it is required, in the first instance, that (?two or more parties) should begin talks and then regularly invite others to participate in the peace talks process." After a brief break in transmission, Najibollah continues: "A starting point must be set. We once again express our readiness to set up a preparatory committee on organizing talks in Kabul or in any other place that propeace forces choose. In taking responsibility for the Afghan people, I once again invite all Afghan figures both inside and outside the country to establish contacts and talks between the government and oppositions as neutral, pious, benevolent, and peacemaking individuals [words indistinct] the Republic of Afghanistan Government appreciates and welcomes efforts by every figure inside and outside the country as benevolent, neutral, and third-party peacemaking individuals who respond positively to our invitation. Some think that talking with the opposition party

means surrender, whereas we have learned and perceived very well the positive effects of discussion and talks both from the dictates of the sacred religion of Islam and from our country's historic, traditional, and national customs."

Najibollah then offers examples of talks which brought about peace in many countries, repeating that Afghan problems can only be resolved in talks among Afghans without foreign interference. He enumerates past Afghan Government problems, noting: "You remember the difficult days after the Soviet troops' withdrawal: the organization of a provisional government in Peshawar and the recognition of this government by two or three countries, the allocation of the Afghan position in [word indistinct] to the opposition representative, the intensification of military and economic pressure on Jalalabad and on other regions of the country, the organization of an antireconciliation coup, the difficult winter of 1988, the propaganda wave and closing of embassies in Kabul by some countries, etc. All these difficulties passed while they counted down the minutes until the regime's removal."

At 1727 GMT Najibollah says: "The state has defended for three years and will continue to defend the homeland and its independent and territorial integrity with the help of Almighty God and the Afghan people's support. In general, Afghanistan's entire history, particularly the last three years, has proved that no imposed apparatus [sazo barq] from abroad can replace the Afghans' role and participation. No solution to the issue can be effective and workable without considering Afghanistan's realities, either. Will it be that one state, the first side to act and forward the peaceful and political solution to the Afghan issue—its initiator—should it be removed at once in a prejudiced way and under the condition that there is no single guarantee toward ensuring present, relative stability and to take the responsibilities for creating a power vacuum which will have a deadly outcome? [sentence as heard]

"Considering the aforementioned issues and taking this opportunity from this credible platform of the Afghan nation, I propose once again to the opposition forces, based on the Afghan people's will and demand, that, considering the high national interest and emphasizing the fact that the only path to be free from the tragedy of the present war in Afghanistan is to sit around a negotiating table and discuss the high national interest of the people... [changes thought] we should not allow Afghan blood to be shed anymore and not allow one brother to target another brother with a bullet."

At 1728 GMT Najibollah begins to conclude his address and says: "On behalf of the Republic of Afghanistan, I responsibly assure the Afghan people that we will take advantage of the (?smallest) possibility of attaining peace. I also assure them that the Republic of Afghanistan's Armed Forces, relying on Almighty God and the Afghan people's support, will defend the peaceful honor and prestige of the compatriots, as did their fathers and forefathers, to the last drop of their blood to protect our independence and territorial integrity and a peaceful life.

"As far as I gather from my meetings with various groups of the people, the Afghan people knowingly and with awareness are ready to defend their country and its independence and territorial integrity. The Republic of Afghanistan, based on the will of the people of the country and relying on Almighty God, will stand alongside Afghanistan's people under any condition and will carry out its duties with honesty and self-sacrifice to defend the country's territorial integrity, independence, and national heritage. I want to address all the compatriots—the young people, the armed forces heroes, and each Afghan individual—that hard and twisting stages in history have passed and that other difficult stages will also pass. The forces that recognize the high national interest of Afghanistan's people and which put its defense at the top of the list of their struggle will be proud of and successful in these stages. We are right to be on this humanitarian, Islamic, and national path, and God—may he be glorified—is with us, and the Afghan people are with us. We did not submit to past difficulties, and we continued on the path of peace, negotiation, and understanding, based on the will of the Afghan people. We will continue our duties with self-sacrifice to help the people reach their desired goal."

At 1730 GMT, after Najibollah briefly discusses the results of local elections, congratulates two new legislative members on their electoral triumphs, and officially closes the Meli Shura session, his address ends with loud applause.

Bangladesh

Minister Warns of Anti-Democratic 'Conspiracy'

BK0512165491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1450 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 5 (AFP)—Finance Minister Saifur Rahman warned Thursday that a conspiracy was being hatched to foil democracy in Bangladesh.

"Any conspiracy to oust the present government will only affect democracy and the country's politics," Rahman was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency.

Rahman's comment came amid a growing crime wave, a depressed economy, and several days of demonstrations by police and paramilitary security personnel seeking better wages.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had accused both domestic and foreign conspirators last month of being behind the growing lawlessness in Bangladesh, and warned that those responsible would be duly punished.

Rahman said opposition political parties would not "gain anything by provoking" strikes and terrorism,

adding that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party government was working around the clock to correct the misdeeds of the past regime.

A call by Bangladesh's main workers' union for a three-day strike from December 22 for better wages has received the support of several opposition groups.

Former Prime Minister Ahmed Released From Jail

BK0612040591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0340 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] Dhaka, Dec 6 (AFP)—Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed was freed late Thursday, hours after the High Court granted him bail, the opposition Jatiya Party (JP) said in a statement Friday. Ahmed, who had been suffering from high blood pressure, was released from the prison cell of the P.G. Hospital here, the statement.

Two judges granted him bail Thursday but said it would be withdrawn if Ahmed was in any way found interfering or influencing with investigations into graft charges against him, the official BSS news agency said.

Ahmed, the last premier in deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad's government, has also been charged with abuse of power and violating a detention clause under the 1974 Special Powers Act.

Ahmed went into hiding after Ershad was ousted last December, but still managed to win a parliamentary seat for the JP, Ershad's party, in the February general elections. He was arrested in May.

India

Research Reactor for Isotope Production Designed

BK0612051691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] India has designed a general purpose research reactor which could be used by developing countries for isotope production and other applications of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, gave this information in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha yesterday. These reactors when supplied will be strictly used under IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] safeguards.

Prime Minister Meets With Nepalese Counterpart

BK0512164291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] India and Nepal today took a big step forward in strengthening bilateral relations. The prime ministers of the two countries held talks for two hours in New Delhi this evening and discussed bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Mr. Narasimha Rao and Mr. G.P. Koirala agreed that terrorist activities hinder the development process and efforts should be made to curb such activities. They expressed satisfaction at the excellent work done by the joint commission. In the area of water resource development, the two sides agreed to proceed with several projects which have been pending for several decades. These include Karnali-Pancheshwar multipurpose projects, Kosi-Bhimnagar barrage, Baghmati-Kamla scheme, Sapt Kosi high dam, Burhi Gandak scheme, flood forecasting, and protection of embankment scheme. On certain projects like (Tanakpur), the Nepali side suggested certain modifications which India agreed to look into.

In the field of industrial and economic cooperation, the recommendation of the high-level task force for setting up of joint ventures in agro-industries, sugar, cement, and paper were accepted. The two sides will sign five agreements tomorrow on trade, transit, unauthorized trade in border areas, agricultural cooperation, and memorandum of understanding on V.P. Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.

Trade, Other Agreements Announced

BK0612042591 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Dec 91

[Text] India has announced major trade concessions to Nepal and agreed to take up several projects in that country on a priority basis. New Delhi has also announced a grant of two crore rupees to set up a trust fund under the Girija Prasad Koirala India-Nepal Foundation.

The prime minister made these announcements at a banquet hosted in honor of his Nepalese counterpart in New Delhi last night. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the new treaties to be signed by the two countries today will promote cordial relations between the two neighbors. Mr. Rao announced further concessions regarding tariffs and a substantial relaxation of the access regime for Nepalese export to India.

The prime minister said trade between India and Nepal can form the basis for mutually beneficial economic interaction. He said India should be viewed not only as a major destination for Nepalese exports and the source of investment but as a country committed to Nepal's industrialization and economic growth.

On water resources development, Mr. Narasimha Rao said the two sides have agreed on various specific measures covering major- and medium-size projects, flood forecasting, and flood protection work. He expressed the hope that the proposed cooperation in agricultural sector will lead to substantial employment in the rural areas.

In his reply, the Nepalese prime minister, Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala, said India's cooperation is significant

for his country to achieve political and economic modernization. He expressed gratitude for India's generous assistance for the development of Nepal.

Iran

Tehran TV Cites Bush on Western Hostages

LD0512173291 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] U.S. President Bush thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and the United Nations for their efforts in releasing Western hostages. He said: Although we welcome this event as a positive development, we cannot say that the issue is at an end. He called for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, including the two German hostages, and the return of the bodies of U.S. hostages William Higgins and William Buckley.

Paper Views German Stance on Nuclear Capability

NC0512121591 Paris AFP in English 1143 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec 5 (AFP)—An Iranian daily close to hardliners on Thursday described as "irresponsible" a German statement that Iran was seeking to build nuclear weapons.

The Persian-language newspaper ABRAR said the German Government position was "pernicious" and asked German officials "to review their relations with Iran and correct the contradiction in their diplomacy towards Iran."

"Germany can only have normal relations with Iran if it pursues sincere diplomacy," ABRAR insisted.

German intelligence chief Konrad Porzner said in remarks published Wednesday that Iran would be able to build a nuclear bomb by the year 2000 if it keeps up its present military activities.

He told the daily DIE WELT that while there was no evidence Tehran was building nuclear weapons, it was sufficiently capable to begin manufacturing uranium or plutonium needed for such weapons.

Khamene'i Criticizes U.S., Urges Islamic Unity

LD0412153991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Excerpts] Families of the martyrs and people from other walks of life from the cities of Shirvan, Rudsar, Kaleybar, Borzok of Kashan, Saveh, and Tehran as well as a number of the honorable Friday imams, Majlis representatives, and goverment officials from those cities, disabled people from Khorasan and Tehran, teacher training officials from Babolsar, bank employees of Khuzestan, officials, employees, and workers of the Iran-Khodro factory, together with commanders of the Tehran Security Force, accompanied by the commander in chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Security Forces met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, this morning. During the meeting the Guardian of the Cause of Muslims made an important speech. We end the hour's news from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran by broadcasting the text of his speech. May God guard you.

[Begin Khamene'i recording] [crowd chants] First, I welcome all the dear brothers and sisters who have come here from remote areas of the country. [passage omitted] World arrogance, having embarked on detailed studies of the onset of the revolution, arrived at the conclusion that it must put heavy pressure on the Iranian nation because it brought about a revolution which was destined to bestow greatness on Islam. World arrogance imagined that by so doing it could force the Iranians to regret having made the revolution; it also believed that Iran's situation would serve as a reminder to other nations.

When the war with Iraq was launched, the forces of infidelity and arrogance in the world whose forces which were worthy of attention stood behind the warmongering regime. Their definite decision was to destroy the Islamic Republic. The will of God decreed otherwise, however.

It is always the case that God's will overcomes the will of the satans. However, it is so on one condition—that the faithful make sacrifices for God's will. If these sacrifices were not made and if our armed forces—whether the Army, the Revolutionary Guards Corps, or the security and mobilization forces—did not engage in defense so courageously then the will of the enemy would have prevailed.

God's will materialized within the mould of action by your children, these same young ones who were martyred or disabled or those who were taken prisoners or those who did make sacrifices but who, thanks to God, came out of the war with no injuries.

Today, not only the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic of Iran system are indebted to the sacrifices made by those dear ones but the whole world of Islam is indebted to them. It is thanks to these very sacrifices that Islam today has the greatness and the honor to attract the masses and the intellectual youth in the Islamic countries. It is also thanks to these sacrifices that today the Iranian nation can see that, thank God, Iran and the Islamic Republic are proud in the world, are respected in the world, that the country's constructive works are on course, and that the nation is moving toward ever-increasing greatness and well being. [passage omitted]

I also refer to one other point, since the brothers from the Security Forces are here. These forces are now in a new stage. The point in my mind is that the Security Force must today epitomize three important factors. The first factor is religiousness and whatever derives from it, such

as chastity and Islamic morality. The second factor is power—the Security Force must be powerful. It is a single security force covering the entire country and shouldering heavy responsibilities. It must preserve the power with its material and spiritual elements. And the third factor is intelligence and awareness which are characteristics of any security force. They must not be deceived; they must be everywhere. The security forces must increasingly have these three factors while the people must view them as their brothers who are responsible for maintaining order and security.

Then the main point which I want to talk about today—on the occasion of the presence of our brothers who are engaged in technical vocations—is that the Iranian land must be built by the hands of the Iranians.

That is an idea, a method. It should be the intention and motive of the Iranian nation to build the country themselves. [crowd chants: God is great, Khamene'i is the leader, death to America; and other slogans]

There are two schools of thought in countries that have been left behind from the bandwagon of scientific and industrial progress. One is wrong—it brings misery to the nation. The other is correct. The wrong idea was, as during the reign of the American lackeys in this country, that is, that scientific, industrial, and technical matters were handled by foreigners, Europeans, westerners, and placed at our disposal as finished products. That is, we pay, give oil, and use their products. That was one school of thought.

Unfortunately, that idea still exists in certain colonized countries. They say: We pay and the westerners build for us and bring products over and install them for us here. Sometimes they foolishly think that it is a kind of lordship over westerners, that we are rich and they build for us. That idea still exists today. [passage omitted]

Another school of thought is correct. That is, we may receive science, technology, and industry—which we lack—from foreigners but we shall take control over its management; the choice of industry will be ours; what is needed for our country will be created by us. One should obtain knowledge from anyone who possesses it, but not learn it in order to become his lackey. That is what the westerners wanted for the Iranian nation and other Muslim nations. [passage omitted]

The day must never come when the various sectors [of the economy] are tempted to hand over projects fully to the foreigners. Every nation must know that it alone can understand what its needs are, and it alone can provide for its needs. [chanting from the audience]

We do not say that knowledge and industrial experiences of others must not be utilized. Indeed, science does not belong to a single person or to a single nation; science belongs to humanity. [passage omitted]

We must acquire knowledge no matter where we find it. We must learn from the learned people of other nations. But the will to learn and to build must come from within ourselves. Our youth who are studying in scientific centers must build the country.

On a wider horizon you must look at the world of Islam. Why should the world of Islam be so weak and in need of others? Why must the world of Islam beg from its enemies? Today some rich Islamic countries must pay Europeans to airlift their fresh fruit and vegetables, let alone machinery or material for building ports and so on. Why should the Islamic nation be in such a sorry state? [passage omitted]

Muslims must wake up; they must pool their talent, scientific, industrial, monetary, and other resources to use them and to form a united and strong front against their universal enemy. They must do so especially today when the United States imagines that it owns the entire world. Of course, that is a foolish illusion; but the men at the helm of the U.S. Government do entertain such illusions. Because their rival, the former USSR, has been torn to pieces and fallen on miserable times, they [U.S. leaders] imagine that the whole world belongs to them—as if the world belonged to two rivals and now that one has fallen the other can claim the entire world. Who inspired such wrong logic in those shallow and uninformed men—uninformed of human nature and instinct? Human beings are free and independent! Nations are independent! What have the world problems got to do with you?

And they interfere in every event—whatever is happening or stirring in any part of the world or if there are any money-making ventures, they turn up there immediately just like the former local tough guys who were on the spot whenever it was time for collecting protection money, whenever there was a quarrel between a husband and wife, and so on. Why don't you mind your own business? They behave as if they are the sheriffs of this world. Who do you think you are? The reason you feel powerful is because some nations and governments have not been prepared to understand their own power and to therefore feel powerful; otherwise, if the Muslim nations were to grasp the extent of their own power and realize how great their power is, you would not have been able to throw your weight around in the world like this.

And now they are standing behind that usurper, aggressor, impudent, ill-humored, rough, usurper of this region so that they may completely eliminate the rights of the Palestinians. When do Muslim nations want to assert their presence in the face of these bullyings? They kept saying: Peace! Peace! They kept repeating a word and then they dragged the Palestinians there to sit at a round table. They signed away the rights of a whole nation. The more the Muslims give in the more impudent the abject enemy will become. Just look at what they are doing in south Lebanon. Hardly a week or a day passes when they do not bomb a region and wantonly kill the poor innocent inhabitants in the villages of south Lebanon. And these human rights organizations too, are dead. Not a word from anyone. But if four Russian Jews

are not allowed to leave the Soviet Union for Israel, there is a hue and cry all over the world! And they argue: Why won't you let a Russian citizen come out and go to Israel. All the world's media are full of this, and the media belongs to the Zionists anyway.

The human rights organizations too—these same ones who claim to be supporting human rights—these too were coordinating with them. So, have you died now? Why have you shut up? They are massacring the Palestinians and the Lebanese and no one utters a word. Of course, we should not have any expectations from them. They are the enemies! Enemies! What can one expect from an enemy? They are the enemies of Islam and Islamic nations and anything that stops their bullyings. We should therefore not have any expectations from them but from ourselves and from Islamic nations. Why don't the Islamic nations wake up? Why don't the Islamic governments—especially some Arab governments—wake up?

You, the Iranian nation, you should appreciate your circumstances; you are the only nation which is powerfully and clearly saying: Yes to Palestine; Yes to Islam; No to Israel; No to America; No to arrogance; No to bullying. [crowd chants slogans]

This is thanks to Islam's blessings. Islam breathed life into you, awoke you, made you independent. You are not under anyone's banner or ticket. The powers cannot tell you what to do or not to do. You do as your duty dictates. It is a great blessing and an honor. There are Muslim nations who are unhappy, but who cannot do anything about it. Of course, they have not made an effort, in our view. [passage omitted]

You must safeguard Islamic unity as strongly as possible. Do not let the evil enemies mentioned before try to create rifts among you. God willing, your unity, solidarity, faith, and strength will hopefully awaken the world of Islam. [passage omitted]

Tehran Alleges Foreign Backing for Opposition

PM0512164691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Dec 91 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Tehran Accuses Three States of Supporting Oppositionists"]

[Excerpt] Paris, Tehran, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Informed Iranian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the campaign of arrests conducted by the Iranian security forces following the storming in Tehran and 13 other cities of the homes of oppositionists accused of planning to topple the regime affected 379 people, including 19 women.

The sources said the detainees include an unspecified number of former Army, Air Force, Navy, and police officers who are believed to have supported the return of the Pahlavi regime, which the Iranian revolution toppled in 1979.

The sources said that at least 50 of the people arrested belong to the outlawed "Mojahedin-e Khalq" movement based in Baghdad. This is the first time in nearly four years that a large number of the movement's members have been arrested. Most of the people affected by the recent campaign of arrests belong to right-wing and moderate organizations demanding the restoration of the 1906 constitution and an end to the ayatollah's rule.

Official sources said yesterday that they "seized a huge number of sensitive documents," some of which reveal the involvement of no less than three foreign powers in supplying opposition groups with money and equipment. The sources added that "the powers involved include two major states and a state in the region." They declined to name them, however.

The sources promised that "a statement in that regard will be issued soon by the senior authorities" in Tehran.

Officials accuse the arrestees of organizing a number of demonstrations this year in Tehran and the provincial capitals. [passage omitted]

Official Outlines General Budget Proposals

LD0312013191 Tehran IRNA in English 1628 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—The proposed general budget for the next calendar year 1371, beginning March 21, 1992, stands at rials 10 trillion, 16.8 percent more than the current year's budget, the head of the budget and plan organization said here Monday.

"In the 1371 budget bill, the share of non-governmental sector in economic activities is 21.4 percent, the same as in this year's budget," Mas'ud Roghani-Zanjani told a press conference.

"The new budget bill predicts that the amount of government borrowing from banks or its budget deficit will drop to rials 623 billion for the coming year," he said.

The share of current expenditures in the 1371 budget bill has been cut to 67 percent from the present 69 percent, while that of development expenditures has been increased by two percent to 33 percent, he said.

Roghani-Zanjani said the highest increase in budget allocation for the next year goes to education, health and social affairs sectors. The sectors of water and electricity, roads and transportation, education and higher education attract the major part of planned investments, he pointed out.

The budget bill also calls for increase in the amount of subsidies to be paid by the government to rials one trillion from the present rials 600 billion.

The budget bill for 1371 will soon be presented to the Majles for review and finalization.

The head of the plan and budget organization also disclosed that the organization for promotion and renovation of industries and the national industries organization were to respectively offer rials 154 billion and rials 127 billion worth of their shares at the Tehran Stock Exchange next calendar year. He said 1371 will also see the giant steel Mobarakeh steel complex near Isfahan go on steam with an annual capacity of 2.4 million tons.

Turning to the country's growing population, Roghani-Zanjani said the public census conducted early this calendar year showed that Iran has a population of 57,799,204, of whom 32,690,241 live in urban centres and the rest in rural areas.

"The growth ratio of the population is 3.17 percent as compared with the public census conducted five years ago," he added.

Tehran Province, said Roghani-Zanjani, accounted for the highest increase from 8.7 million five years ago to 10.4 million this year, however, the average annual growth rate of the population was highest in the southern province of Bushehr (6.13 percent).

The migration to urban centres from the countryside rose from the the 54.3 percent growth in 1986 to 54.6 percent this year, he added.

Roghani-Zanjani said the highest growth rate for the urban population was recorded in the western Province of Kurdistan and the southern Province of Hormozgan and the lowest was recorded in the central Province of Kohkiluyeh va Buyer Ahmadi.

However, said the official, literacy statistics were the most important part of the census results, and revealed that 74.4 percent of the country's over over-six-year-old population was literate compared to the 61.8 percent figures for 1986. The literacy ratio is 82.5 percent in the urban areas and 63.6 percent in the rural regions, he noted.

According to Roghani-Zanjani 25.2 percent of the total population of the country is active, of whom 22.3 percent are employed and 2.3 percent are either jobless or looking for a job.

The rate of unemployment particularly in the cities has declined from 4 percent in 1986 to 2.7 percent this year, he said.

Islamic Chamber of Commerce To Cut Tariff Levels

LD0312012191 Tehran IRNA in English 1418 GMT 2 Dec 91

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Chamber of Commerce (ICC), an affiliate of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) has agreed to cut down tariffs among Muslim states by 20 per cent.

The proposal is to be taken up at the OIC summit meet in Dakar, Senegal next week, and once effectual it will open the way to an Islamic common market.

Member states of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce who met in Karachi, Pakistan, last Wednesday to Friday, agreed that the ICC meet in Tehran next fall will coincide with the 18th Tehran international trade fair, and that all arrangements be made for full participation.

The Iranian delegation to the Karachi ICC meet was led by the director of the Chamber of Commerce, industries and mines, 'Ali Naqi Khamoshi, who returned to Tehran Monday.

According to the Iranian delegation, in light of the general interest of Muslim states in textile industries and in a bid to upgrade their technical capacity in that area, the ICC has decided to establish a committee for technical and marketing cooperation on textile among OIC members.

The Karachi meet also elected the Iran's Khamoshi as the vice- chairman of the upcoming meet of the executive committee of the ICC.

Pakistan

Customs Officials Make 'Biggest-Ever' Drug Haul

BK0612023391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1721 GMT 4 Dec 91

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 4 (AFP)—Pakistani customs officials Wednesday foiled an attempt to smuggle out 13 tonnes of hashish to Montreal, Pakistan Television (PTV) said.

The drug haul is the biggest ever in Pakistan, PTV said in its main evening bulletin, quoting customs authorities. Thirteen tonnes of the contraband drug was seized from a container just before it was to be loaded on a foreign ship at Karachi port, it said.

The report failed to give the name or origin of the ship, nor did it say whether authorities had made any arrests.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Makes 'Fresh Move' for Peace Talks

BK0512163091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 5 Dec 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is reported to have made a fresh move for peace talks with the government. Militants said they are ready to consider a formal cease-fire in the north and east and also invited a cabinet minister, Mr. Thondaman, for talks.